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THURSDAY, JANUARY 26TH, 2012

Shock move for hospice?

THE Marie Curie hospice based in Penarth, could make a shock move to a site that may become available next to Velindre Hospital in Cardiff. A spokeswoman for the charity confirmed that it was in "early stage conversations" regarding relocation.

(For more on this story, turn to page 9)



They say that cooking is the new rock 'n' roll, and pupils from Barry secondary schools lined up recently for a 'masterchef-style' competition, organised by Barry Rotary Club. The contestants are pictured (above) with club president, David Ball.

FOR A REPORT, AND TO SEE WHO WAS THE TOP CHEF - TURN TO PAGE 5.

Brynhill Golf Club members prepare to cast their votes

by TIM
CHAPMAN

THE members of Brynhill Golf Club will vote tonight on whether the club should back proposals for a reconfigured 18-hole course, a new clubhouse and the sale of land for housing.

Last week, an open exhibition was held at the club, providing information on what the development would involve.

It was open to both golf members and the general public, and dealt with issues such as the club's new building, access off the main road and how housing would fit into the plans.

More than 300 people, including club members, residents and local politicians attended.

Speaking at the end of the exhibition, the current club captain Steve

club vice-captain, explained: "Members have been satisfied with the information that has been presented to them and will be able to vote with an informed opinion."

In addition to the information provided at the exhibition, members have been able to question experts in surveying, transport and construction.

Mr Taylor said: "On the night, the doors will open for members at 6.30pm and there will be a Q & A session before the vote."

"The proposal could secure the financial future of the club that has been part of the community since 1921."

Brynhill Golf Club and Redrow Homes also asked people attending the exhibition to provide feedback on forms.

CONTINUED
ON PAGE 4

Blind woman issues a plea after she is forced to defend her guide dog

A blind woman was forced to step in and protect her guide dog in Barry town centre when a Staffordshire bull terrier tried to attack it.

The episode happened on January 10, when Wendy Evans and her

by TIM CHAPMAN

companion Fairway were on their daily trip to the shops - and only the quick thinking of two nearby police officers, who grabbed the collar of the bull terrier, prevented a serious incident.

What took place echoes the recent attack by a Rottweiler on a blind woman and her guide dog in Bridgend.

Wendy (59) told The GEM: "The bull terrier was tied up outside Boots and I could hear it barking."

"When I got closer to it, it went for my dog. I pulled my dog away and

stood in front of him. The other dog went for me, but luckily the police were passing and pulled it away."

"I heard them tell the owner he should have a muzzle on his dog."

"If the dog had broken his lead, I don't know what would have happened."

Wendy is adamant that people shouldn't take their dogs into the town centre and leave them tied up to a bollard or a lamp post, because they can distract guide dogs.

"Going to the shops and leaving a dog tied up

outside is not a proper walk," she insisted.

She wants to highlight the fact that a blind person and a guide dog have enough obstacles to overcome without have to endure avoidable distractions.

Wendy lives in Coldbrook, but goes into the town centre every weekday, come rain, come shine, come snow.

"I catch the bus up the hill and then walk with Fairway into town."

"I go daily because otherwise the days are long, and the nights are even longer."

(CONTINUED
ON PAGE 4)

Two are jailed

by AJ
SICLUNA

A MAN and his nephew have received custodial sentences, after being involved in a burglary in the Cogan area of Penarth.

During the incident, damage to the property totalled £600, Cardiff Crown Court was told.

Darren Dailoo (34) and his nephew Aaron Ryan (20) a man with no previous convictions, both of Caerau Park Crescent, Cardiff, had both admitted a charge of burglary.

Dailoo, who was said to have previous convictions for burglary, theft and robbery, and to be in breach of a suspended sentence for theft, was jailed for 14 months.

Ryan was sentenced to eight months in a young offender institution.

Judge Philip Richards told the pair that the burglary caused not inconsiderable damage.

(CONTINUED
ON PAGE 4)

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Labour pledge on refuse collections

I WAS interested to read your recent article about the problem with refuse bags and their collection at Meirion Close in Barry, as highlighted by town councillor Theo Stentrom.

I am aware that my colleague Coun Bronwen Brooks, who represents the Court ward, has taken up this issue and is working with the officers to try to eliminate the problem – and continues to do so until a resolution can be achieved.

This is also a problem for many of the Labour councillors who complain on a regular basis, as I do, about refuse bags being left in the street and causing a nuisance in their areas, particularly where houses

have been converted into flats.

Many of these properties do not have adequate storage space and cause concern, with refuse bags being stored outside until the next collection date.

I know that the waste management team are doing as much as they can, but regrettably this Conservative-run Vale Council will not do anything about it.

Things have got to change and doing nothing is not an option.

This is why the Labour Party is pledging to review the fortnightly rubbish collection for flats and where problems currently exist, if they are elected to run the Vale Council in May. **Coun Neil Moore, Vale Council, (Labour councillor for Cadoc ward)**

IRONY IN A MANIFESTO

HOW ironic is it that town councillor Claire Curtis announces, on behalf of the Labour Party, their manifesto plan to save Cemetery Approach, when at a meeting of the Cemetery Approach Action Group, held in the Tynewydd Inn a few years ago, Coun Rob Curtis refused to represent the views of the Action Group opposing the planning application for the houses on Cemetery Approach.

When questioned why, he told the Action Group that the Vale needed the money from this land to go towards the building of the new school in Cowbridge.

He also said he was against 'NIMBYism', i.e. Not In My Back Yard, but I am sure Coun Curtis can remember White Farm, just on his

doorstep where he campaigned against housing!

It seems quite strange to me that it was council officers of the coalition council at that time who had secret meetings to overcome public protest with the developer, Newydd Housing, to dispose of this land – but, thankfully, after being exposed by the Cemetery Approach Action Group, Newydd Housing pulled out.

The town council has, in fact, been in negotiations with the Vale Council to either purchase the land to the right, as you face the cemetery gates from Cemetery Approach, or have the land gifted to them so they can use the land for non-burial purposes, and not allotments as stated.

Coun Keith Lewis, Barry.

Feeding the birds

MY advice to people feeding garden birds is that they should never leave fat balls encased in plastic mesh – or indeed, any kind of mesh, because this can damage their beaks. They should be offered in a container.

These containers are usually nine inches long and are not very expensive. They are also easier for the birds to hold on to and provide a lot more space for easy feeding.

Heather Montgomery, Llantwit Major

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We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

Cement works plans have been 'looked at in detail' at Aberthaw

I SHOULD like to respond to the letter (The GEM, January 12) from Mr Ian Robinson, on the subject of tyres being burnt at Lafarge Cement Works.

The proposal to burn tyres and other waste-derived fuels at Aberthaw were put forward at the beginning of last year.

In a meeting of the liaison committee in March, the proposals were discussed in detail, with the management team subjected to intense questioning as to the environmental impact, safety and delivery concerns.

During the year, several public displays were held in accordance with the Environmental Agency's requirements on consultation, so that residents of the area could also air their concerns before any decision could be made.

In June of last year, I had the opportunity to visit

Question of safety

WITH reference to Christopher Short's recent letter – how ridiculous calling for horse riders to clean up after their steeds!

First of all, it's too dangerous for a rider to dismount on a road – a rider has more control of the horse when riding compared to leading it.

Then there is the problem of remounting safely.

My horse is 17'1 hands and impossible to mount from the ground.

If there were more

bridle paths, we wouldn't need to use the roads

as much.

As for horse manure spreading disease, this is simply not correct.

People wouldn't use it as a fertilizer on their vegetable patches if it contained and spread disease.

Dog poo is dangerous, hence the reason it has to be cleaned up.

But this doesn't stop people flinging the poop bags into hedges and trees!

Can you imagine the size of the horse poop bag if the rider had to clean it up?

Joanne McCarthy, Barry.

HUNT HORSE POO SOLUTION

I HAVE read with great amusement the saga instigated by Mr Christopher Short, concerning the horse droppings resulting from the Cowbridge Boxing Day hunt.

Sorry to prolong the discussion, but I would like to make the following comment and suggestion: When I was a young lad, living in the Midlands, many traders still used horses and carts to deliver their wares.

Whenever a horse performed his natural bodily function and left a pile of poo in the road, it was usually only a matter of minutes before a nearby householder appeared equipped with shovel and bucket, and

removed the offending pile.

No, they weren't being particularly environmentally friendly, the terminology hadn't been thought up then.

They were simply gathering manure for their gardens or allotments.

My suggestion, therefore, is that at this year's Boxing Day Hunt, Mr Short could kill two birds with one stone. He could come equipped with bucket and shovel and collect the horse droppings, thus avoiding the danger of his accidentally stepping in them.

He could then either use the gathered manure on his own garden, or else he could sell it on to another gardener for their use.

Gordon Windridge, Penarth.

the Cauldon works in Staffordshire, where they have been burning tyres and other waste-derived fuels for 20 years.

A tour of every nook and cranny of the works, including the delivery systems, followed an overview presentation, after which I met a member of Staffordshire County Council, who takes a great interest in the works and its environmental impact.

I left that visit much more upbeat about the prospects here at Aberthaw, not having been exposed to any untoward smells or fallout.

The works have been here at Aberthaw for 100 years, and are not going to go away overnight. The burning of these new fuels will cut down on the use of fossil fuels and help clean up a waste problem that affects the whole country.

The technology is available to ensure complete combustion and the cleaning of the flue gasses, as displayed at Cauldon, so why not use it?

Mr Robinson can rest assured that the works will be closely monitored by the liaison committee during the trial period – and, if successful, for as long as it is in operation.

Mike White, St Athan.

(A member of the community liaison committee).

Praise from a GEM winner

I WOULD like to say how delighted I was to win a voucher for Bijou Play and Party Centre, Cowbridge, in one of your recent competitions.

Last Saturday (January 21) we went to Bijou with my three grandchildren and I have to say that we had a fantastic time.

The children were welcomed by the excellent, friendly staff, and the play environment was superb.

The refreshments that

are on sale were very well presented and of a very high standard – a great time was had by all!

If you haven't already taken your children to Bijou, I can thoroughly recommend it and would like to thank The GEM for including the competition in their publication.

Also sincere thanks to Chris and Victoria, along with their super Saturday staff, for such a great time – it was brilliant! We all look forward to our next visit.

Helen Hobrough, Barry.

Rich harvest on road!

I HAVE been following, with some amusement, the barbed correspondence on the subject of horse droppings, and it has taken me back to my boyhood.

When I was a young boy in the 1920s and early 30s, tradesmen such as bakers and milkmen used to undertake their daily deliveries by horse and cart so the sight of horse droppings

was by no means uncommon.

Whenever we boys saw them, we would rush into the street with shovels and buckets to collect the precious harvest and take it to our fathers for use as rose fertilizer.

We would be rewarded with a halfpenny per delivery and you could buy a lot with a halfpenny in those days.

Bring back the bucket and shovel!
Bill Summerfield, Barry.

• Would readers please note that correspondence on the horse droppings issue is now closed.

'Council should not cut funding to Valeways...'

THE views of John Cushen (The GEM, January 5) regarding the future of Valeways, are something I support.

This is the second time that the Vale Council has attempted to wipe out this organisation – although it's not a party political issue, as the last time was under a Labour council.

I am, however, surprised at a Conservative administration taking such action – as this is one of the best examples of the Big Society that could be imagined.

Valeways' work is carried out by a dedicated team of volunteers, but they rely on the services of a small number of paid employees, from whom the Vale Council now intends to withdraw funding.

This is a highly professional organisation, run on a shoe string, that produces an excellent web site and a comprehensive series of paper guides to footpaths and walking in the Vale.

It also ensures that footpaths are regularly surveyed and maintained for the benefit of the wider community and works closely and amicably with landowners in the Vale.

Compare the small amount of money spent to the hundreds of thou-

sands of pounds being spent to provide a couple of miles of cycle path along the Port Road.

I suppose the only difference is that the cycle path is a prestige project and highly visible, while I doubt that the people making the short-sighted decision to kill Valeways have walked any of the footpath heritage of the Vale.

Mr Cushen is right in stating that the decision will result in a lot more money being spent in future in legal costs, to force people to repair or reinstate footpaths due to their neglect.

Couple this issue with the observation from Dennis Harkus in the same edition who points out that 21 out of 27 schemes, totalling £5.4 million of the grants received under the Barry Regeneration Scheme, were from the Vale Council and none from members of the public.

One must ask whether the council is acting in the best interests of its citizens.

I would urge all who have an interest in maintaining our footpath heritage for future generations, to press their councillors to stop this act of vandalism.

David Kennett, Barry.

Police cuts are 'reckless'

THE Tory-led Government is cutting police funding by 20 per cent; these cuts are reckless and will undermine the fight against crime and anti-social behaviour.

They are short-sighted and will devastate years of local hard work and trust built up in Barry and the wider Vale to better protect our communities.

Crime fell by 43 per cent under Labour. By cutting more than 16,000 vital police officers, the Government is taking a huge risk with public safety.

Rob Curtis, Barry. (Labour councillor for the Gibbonsdown ward)

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL FEBRUARY 2)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time		Ht	Time		Ht
	AM	M		PM	M	
26 Thur	08.18	9.9		20.34	9.6	
27 Fri	08.53	9.8		21.07	9.4	
28 Sat	09.25	9.4		21.39	9.8	
29 Sun	09.59	9.0		22.12	8.6	
30 Mon	10.32	10.4		22.47	8.1	
31 Tues	11.11	8.0		23.33	7.6	
01 Wed				12.08	7.5	
02 Thur	00.45	7.3		13.33	7.2	

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

Lefarge manager speaks out – to reassure residents

THE works manager at Lafarge Cement has reacted to recent concerns expressed by residents in Rhose – in particular speculation about “orange clouds” that have been the subject of recent speculation.

Recent correspondents in The GEM have claimed that these clouds are of sulphur dioxide, and argue that the problem will increase when Lafarge starts burning tyres – a new process that the Environment Agency approved some time ago.

However, last week an Environment Agency spokesman said that the orange clouds could be nitrogen dioxide, a gas that is emitted by Aberthaw Power Station in levels that are well below the agency's limits.

This week, James Kirkpatrick, the works manager at Lafarge, told The GEM he was surprised that concerns were being expressed, because the company had done all it could to consult with local residents.

He said: “Over the last year, our community liaison committee organised

by PHILIP IRWIN

exhibitions in Rhose Community Centre, St Athan, and in East Aberthaw.

“These were published in the press and, in addition, we delivered a newsletter to 4,000 homes in Rhose, St Athan and other areas, drawing their attention to the exhibitions.”

He added: “We also arranged for two members of our community liaison committee to travel to our sister works in Stafford where tyres

have been burnt for some years, and there they were able to see the results.”

The GEM said that concerns had been raised over the level of sulphur in tyres, but Mr Kirkpatrick said that the sulphur content in tyres and in coal were similar, so there would be no change.

Burning tyres conjure up an image of thick black smoke billowing out, as in a recent fire in Swansea, but Lafarge says that the incineration process is not like this at all, because the very high temperatures mean that no black smoke or fumes are released.

Coun Mike White, who sits on St Athan Community Council, wrote to The GEM this week (see page 2) to say that he came away from the trip to Stafford completely reassured about the proposal.

He told The GEM: “I was introduced to a Staffordshire county councillor, who was adamant that there had been no problems with smells or smoke.

“The plant only holds one day's production of tyres, so there is no huge pile of tyres that could catch fire. It is surely a better use for the tyres than dumping them in landfill.

“In fact, I was impressed by the overall clean working environment there.”

A Lafarge spokeswoman added: “If people go to www.lafargeuk-consultations.com/aberrthaw they will be able to see the two newsletters

we issued last year, and also the exhibition panels.

Aberthaw Power Station also commented on the recent speculation, saying that the majority of the stack emissions are “made up of the same elements as air, and much of the plume seen released from flue gas stacks is water vapour forming a cloud as it contacts cool air”.

Phil Allen of Aberthaw Power Station commented: “We care about the environment in which we operate and over the past five years, we have invested more than £200 million in environmental technologies to improve our performance.

“Aberthaw Power Station operates under stringent EA regulations. All emissions from the station are continuously measured and we are bound by our operating licence to report any breaches.

“We have had no recent incidences or breaches of our emissions.”

Max is doing very well... but can somebody let Debbie know?

A BARRY woman is hoping to trace the correct recipient of a mis-delivered mystery card containing news on a playful dog called ‘Max.’

The card came through the door of Rachel Davies, who lives on Colcot Road.

Rachel explained: “I wonder whether The GEM could help to reunite a Barry family with a card that contains news about their rehomed puppy Max.

“It was wrongly put through our letter box at 81 Colcot Road addressed to ‘Debbie’.

“The card from ‘Becky’ gives an update on how well the dog Max has settled in, and how he gets on with ‘Skye’.

“We have no idea who Debbie is – she is not a previous owner of our house, so we can't pass the card – and the news – on to her.”

In the card, which features a picture of Max, Becky reports: “He is five and a half months old now and doing really well. He's a lovely dog and loves his cuddles, but he's also good at amusing



‘Max loves his cuddles,’ reported Becky.

himself when I am studying.”

She adds at the end of her neatly written note: “I love him to bits and I'm really glad I got him.”

So Debbie, if you are out there, get in touch with The GEM and we can pass the card on to you with all the latest news on Max.

TRC

Dinas Council outline work to keep bills down

THE Dinas Powys council has calmed residents' fears that they would have to find extra cash for their Community Council tax bills this year.

Coun Chris Williams, chair, said that the council had worked hard to keep costs down: “We have been prudent and attended to essential maintenance work to the

Parish and Lee Hall.

“The toilets were refurbished, both halls have been redecorated, new tables purchased and the stage is to receive additional improvements.”

“We supported the play scheme in the Murchfield Hall in the summer. With the Eisteddfod in the Vale this year, we were pleased to sponsor the open solo over-25 soprano competition, likewise

the council financially supported the Dinas Powys music festival.”

In cooperation with SoulinDinas, the council ensured that all the seats on the common were refurbished and painted.

They worked with the British Legion to ensure appropriate events marked Remembrance Day, and also a ceremony on November 11.

They made representations to the Vale Council on issues such as the need to replace the sub-standard bridge near Hebron Road at the junction with the main road; the dangers of heavy traffic along the Cardiff Road; and expressed concern about the threat of loss of funding for rural public footpath maintenance.

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Lifeboat called to fishing boat

BARRY Dock Lifeboat was called to a fishing boat in trouble on Tuesday, January 17 at 8.20am off Cold Knap Point. The unharmed occupants were going on a day's fishing in the Bristol Channel when there was an engine failure.

The Barry Dock all weather lifeboat towed the vessel into the bay and the inflatable XP boat was deployed to tow the fishing boat to the shoreline.

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2 Pappadoms & Chutneys

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Some of the thousands of Christmas trees put out for recycling by Vale residents; with left to right: farm manager Mike Hallett, cabinet member for visible and building services, Coun Geoff Cox and farm workers Andy Scott and Jamie Cooper.

Residents' bumper festive trees recycled in the Vale

THE Vale Council's garden and food waste contractor, Cowbridge Compost, received a "bumper amount" of real Christmas trees for recycling this year.

The council collected Christmas trees from across the Vale from January 9-14, with residents able to put their trees out for free collection with their refuse and recycling.

Cabinet member for visible and building services, Coun Geoffrey Cox, visited Cowbridge Compost to see the recycled trees, and commented: "I am very pleased with the efforts made by residents to use our free Christmas tree collection service."

"This, together with our food waste and co-min-gled recycling, is making a significant difference to our environment."

"I would urge everyone to include increased recycling in their New Year's resolutions and divert as much as possible from our black bag waste col-

lection. It is worth looking at the full, latest list of what can be recycled on the council's website."

Vale residents are reminded that as spring approaches, the alternate week garden waste collections start from March 30. Meanwhile, residents can continue to 'ring and request' a collection.

Blind woman shields dog



Wendy with her loyal companion Fairway.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

She added: "Last year, even in the snow, I made it all the way into town."

Some people would think that jumping between the dogs was foolhardy, but Wendy explained that she and Fairway are inter-dependent.

"If he gets hurt, I am housebound. I would be lost without him."

"Recently, I had bronchial pneumonia but I refused to go into hospital because I didn't want him to go into kennels. He stayed beside me all day and night."

The genius of guide dogs is well known and Fairway's party piece is leading Wendy to the items she needs in the supermarket.

Guide dogs are trained for 20 months at a cost of £50,000. They then dedicate the bulk of their lives to serving their owner, retiring before their physical and mental powers deteriorate.

At four years old, Fairway is likely to be Wendy's companion for another six or seven years.

Getting tough on dog fouling

A Vale councillor, who represents a ward in Barry, has vowed to "get tough" on dog fouling in the area.

Coun Richard Bertin, who represents the Court ward, said that many residents had been in touch expressing their concerns about the increase of dog fouling in the area: "I have been regularly discussing this matter with local residents who are adamant that they want to see the Vale Council take strict action."

"In my 2012 council election manifesto is a commitment to put pressure on the council to launch a new dog fouling campaign," he added.

BRYNHILL GOLF CLUB WAITS FOR THE VOTE

RIGHT: David Weller (centre) of the golf course architects Weller McEvoy, showing visitors the proposed course designs at the exhibition.



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Mr Paul Backhouse of Redrow said that it was up to the members of the club to make their decision on whether they were in favour of the proposals.

He emphasised that if members did endorse the proposals, more detailed plans would have to be prepared, dealing with issues like drainage, ecology, soil and the exact number of

houses that could be accommodated.

"Our intention since becoming involved in this project has been to work with the club to develop a set of proposals that are deliverable and make the best use of the land available."

"We will await the members' vote with interest."

The proposals, which would leave Brynhill Golf Club with a £2m surplus at the conclusion of the works, have been devel-

oped jointly by the club's committee and Redrow Homes, who were selected as the preferred development partner following a competitive process last year.

A local residents' group called HOPE, which stands for Highlight Organisation to Protect our Environment, has already voiced its opposition to the plans and held a meeting at Highlight Park Community Centre on January 16.

Burglary: men jailed

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

He said: "Your behaviour was mean and planned."

Ryan, he said, who drove his uncle to the scene, knew exactly what was going to happen.

Prosecutor Julian Greenwood said that in October, Suvita Patel and her family left their home in Sundew Close, Cogan, for a holiday.

On October 29, neighbours heard the burglar alarm sounding and a car unfamiliar in the area was seen passing by, driven by Ryan.

Dailoo, said Mr Greenwood, broke into the house and moved a laptop and a television.

He then emerged, after stealing two remote controls and a set of keys, got the car which was driven away.

Neighbours took the registration number and shortly after Dailoo was arrested.

He said: "I've been in all night."

Ryan said his uncle had instructed him to drive to Penarth.

Kevin Seal for Dailoo said: "He is contrite. At the time he had alcohol problems. Ironically, two weeks before this, his own property was burgled."

Matthew Cobb for Ryan said: "It was only later that he became aware that an offence was to be committed."

Police step in swiftly to avert trouble

by TIM CHAPMAN

VALE police ushered a group of youths who had arrived in Llantwit Major from Barry, back onto a return train on Friday evening, January 13.

The police said they were acting on intelligence that they had received, and that youths from the two towns had been communicating via Facebook.

A spokesman for Llantwit First independent councillors commented: "We are very concerned about a number of issues that arose on that night. We desperately need to address the issues."

"We understand words were exchanged on Facebook between people in Barry and Llantwit Major. A lot of boys came down from Barry, some we understand with scarves across their faces."

The police told The GEM they had not seen youths with scarves across their faces, but had acted swiftly to avoid trouble being caused.

Inspector Mark Taylor commented: "I would like to reassure the residents of Llantwit Major that we take incidents such as this very seriously, and will deal robustly with those looking to cause trouble in the town."

"We continue to work with our partner agencies, including the British Transport Police, in order to keep the community of Llantwit Major safe," he added.

CPC looking for partners in Barry

VOLUNTEERS at the Canolfan Porthceri Centre (CPC) are trying to establish an arts and Welsh language centre in Barry.

April will be the second anniversary of our first meeting, and in that time we have held a number of events and with elected representatives, Welsh Government officials and Barry Regeneration Board members.

In June 2011, we submitted a bid for financial assistance to the Regeneration Board. The bid continues to be the subject of discussion between CPC and the Regeneration Board.

The process so far has been tortuous, intense, frustrating, tantalising, infuriating, exhausting and at times demoralising, and were it not for our collective belief that our project will deliver a facility which is needed in Barry, we would have

given up long ago.

Although we regard ourselves as a group dedicated to Barry, we do not claim to speak for the whole town. We want to work with other groups, as this will make us jointly more influential, and because together we will be more reflective of the community as a whole.

We therefore invite interested groups and individuals to attend a meeting in the hall at Windsor Road United Reformed Church on Saturday, February 4 at 10.30am.

We are particularly keen to speak with people and organisations who would be interested in using, assisting, or even partnering with our envisioned arts and Welsh language centre.

CPC can be contacted via www.porthceri.co.uk or on 07958590365.

Dorothy Connell (Chair, CPC)

COFFEE MORNING

RESIDENTS at Dinas Powys are invited to a coffee morning on Saturday, January 28 at Murchfield Hall from 11am-12.30pm with local Plaid Cymru county councillors.

A Plaid spokesman said: "Councillors will have to make difficult decisions over the coming year. Your views are essential in ensuring that they better reflect the priorities of residents."

Telephone 07725497423 or email familyfranks@btinternet.com for more information.

Chris Franks



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NEW GRANT ALLOWS TYNEWYDD MEN 'TO SPREAD THEIR WINGS'

by TIM CHAPMAN

THE 'Tynewydd Men', a peer support group based in Barry, is celebrating an award from the Big Lottery Fund that will help it organise day trips and speakers.

The group is associated with Mind in the Vale, which has premises on Tynewydd Road – hence its name.

Troy Ide, the chairman and the treasurer, told THE GEM: "The grant from the Big Lottery Fund will enable us to purchase a lap top computer to help us with account keeping, research, and booking trips and speakers."

Terry Incledon, the group's secretary, explained:

"When we go out on day visits – for example to the Museum of Welsh Life at St Fagans – we have



to arrange for a minibus and driver, and these funds will help us with that."

There are 15 members of the Tynewydd Men and Troy emphasised: "We are a user-led group and meet at the Mind Centre at 29 Tynewydd Road, Barry, on Wednesday mornings from 10.30am to 1pm.

"On any given week

we have around 10 men attending.

"It is a social group that helps men with mental health issues."

Terry said: "The men that attend the meetings find it therapeutic. Psychologists call it 'peer support'.

"Our aim is to spread our wings as a group, and help to boost the self confidence and esteem of

those who come along.

"A lot of the problems are created by stress and the pace of life.

"Our ethos is to improve the lives of the men who use the Mind Resource Centre."

Members of 'Tynewydd Men' initially attend the centre before joining the group.

GRANT HELPS LOCAL GROUP!

LEFT: Terry Incledon, Clive Harris and Troy Ide are celebrating the £1,550 award made to the group by the Big Lottery Fund.



Runner-up Jake Pugh and winner Ryan James with Rotary Club president David Ball and Bettine Jessey, who donated the trophy in memory of her father, S Brierly, a previous president of the club.

Ryan wins Barry Rotary Club Young Chef competition

THE Rotary Club of Barry held its Young Chef competition on January 17.

It was hosted by Sue Hooper, head of home economics at Bryn Hafren. Nine students competed and judges from the Vale catering services department decided that the winner was Ryan James of Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg, with Jake Pugh of Barry Comprehensive the runner-up.

Other contestants were: Alan Evans, Ben Harler Wits, and Connor Mains of Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg, and Vinny Osephiss, Lauren Guercio, Sophie Finch, and Chelsea Falcon of Bryn Hafren.

The president of Barry Rotary Club, David Ball, said that all the students had distinguished themselves simply by taking part – and they could come and cook for him any time!

Speaking for the judges, Sally Thorpe commented on the high quality of many dishes and gave helpful advice.

Ryan now goes on to the next round, representing Barry in the Vale regional contest at Cowbridge School. If successful, Ryan will move on to the south and Wales finals.

JO

Flood campaigners back council over White Farm

TWO leading campaigners, who fought to prevent further flooding in parts of Barry following the events of 2007, have objected to the White Farm planning appeal.

Persimmon Homes is legally challenging a Vale Council decision not to allow it to build 177 houses at the renowned beauty spot in the town.

Stephen Blakeman and Marilyn Brown are involved with the Coldbrook Catchment Flood Risk Management Group and the Barry Flood Group.

Mr Blakeman said: "We are very worried that additional housing will result in more homes being put at greater risk (when it rains)."

"More than 100 homes were affected in 2007 during the Barry Floods.

"Some residents experienced

terrible distress and were homeless for months. A local primary school was also badly affected."

He continued, "We have lodged objections to the appeal regarding the White Farm development. We are opposed to the decision of the planning committee being overturned."

"It took a great deal of hard work and a four-year campaign to put this right, working alongside the Welsh Assembly, Environment Agency Wales and also Welsh Water and council officials."

"We are also very grateful for the support of Plaid Cymru councillors."

"The areas flooded lie directly below the area of the planned housing."

A decision on whether a development will go ahead will be made at a planning inquiry.

History lesson

THE Rhooose and District History Society is hosting a talk by Glenn Booker on 'The American Invasion of 1944' on Friday, January 27, at 7.30pm in the rear hall of Rhooose Community Centre, Stewart Road.

Tickets at the door – £1 per adult, 50p per child under 16 years.

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RESIDENTS' NIGHTMARE ON TRINITY STREET...

I WAS disappointed to hear from a neighbour that the Vale Council had ruled against making changes to the road access at Trinity Street, Barry.

I moved here three years ago, and for some time before that, the street had campaigned for improvements and there have been public consultations, planning meetings and all the

GEM READER'S VIEW

usual bureaucratic processes to go through – so we had hope.

Since living here, my car has sustained damage from other drivers on four occasions, my daughter's three times, the neighbours well... barely a week goes by without a scrape, bump or wing mirror damage.

The worst times of day are the morning and evening school run; drivers are supposed to give

priority to vehicles travelling up the hill, they don't.

Lorry drivers treat the street and parked vehicles like a pinball machine, mentally scoring points for each car damaged on the way up or down the hill. If you want to see how many people in the street have experienced damage, take a walk through it and count all the cars that fold back their wing

mirrors when parked.

I am as guilty as some of my neighbours in not supporting those who worked hard for the changes – but I believe that if we all pull together, we can start again

and keep going until the council takes notice of the people who are affected the most – and not someone who objects to any changes to the road system because it might cause them the slight inconvenience of having to change their route of access to their garage (rear of Jenner Road).

I believe that everyone has a right to reply and give their opinion and I think that it's important to do this in an open forum, so I would like to encourage everyone and anyone who has been affected by the vehicle issues in Trinity Street to send a letter or reply to The GEM.

I would also like to see in the paper an open letter to the residents of Trinity Street from the Vale Council that gives the rationale and audit trail for their decision.

Please don't try the Freedom of Information Act response, I doubt there is anything sensitive enough in committee that would warrant a non-disclosure. Gaynor Maddox, (Resident, Trinity Street, Barry)



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Officials seize hippo's foot and ivory from passenger at airport

TEN carved ivory ornaments and the foot of a hippopotamus, have been seized from a passenger at Cardiff Airport by the UK Border Agency.

On Saturday, January 14, a 58-year-old woman from the Cardiff area arrived at the airport after flying in from Zambia via Amsterdam, an agency spokesman said.

Officers searched her baggage and found ten carved items made from ivory and an animal foot – believed to have come from a young hippo.

The woman was questioned and said she had cleared a relative's house in Zambia and was unaware that she needed a licence to bring the items into the UK.

The importation of ivory and other items is restricted under the Convention in International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and they can only be brought into the UK if the correct permits have been applied for and issued.

The items were seized by the agency and the



ABOVE: Carved items of ivory were seized.

woman was allowed to leave the airport after questioning.

The seizure at Cardiff Airport came just weeks after UK Border Agency officers at London's Heathrow Airport seized a live African cheetah at Heathrow and was due to transit on to Russia.

Checks revealed that the animal was not micro-chipped and not identifiable, and it was seized under CITES regulations. It will now be re-homed at a UK wildlife park.



ABOVE: An animal foot was in the baggage.



Vaughan Gething AM and members of the Penarth RAFA branch, among others, at the Senedd

Local AM welcomes RAFA members on Senedd visit

THE Cardiff South and Penarth Assembly Member, Vaughan Gething, recently hosted a 'Brew for the Few' coffee morning at the Senedd in Cardiff Bay in aid of the RAF Association's (RAFA) Wings Appeal.

Members from Penarth and other local RAFA branches enjoyed the coffee morning and were thanked for supporting the event by Mr Gething and Tich Taylor, the Penarth branch secretary.

ABERTHAW STAFF MAKE A TY HAFAN DONATION



ABERTHAW Power Station staff have carried the Christmas spirit into the new year and presented a cheque for £700 to Ty Hafan.

A Christmas raffle was held and the proceeds, boosted with a charitable donation from the site, were handed to the local children's hospice.

Ty Hafan ambassador Lyn Hull accepted the cheque on behalf of the hospice. She said: "The funds will be going towards the new spa. I'd like to thank everyone at Aberthaw for their generosity on behalf of all the children that will benefit."

Rare guitar is stolen in Barry

POLICE are appealing for help to track down a rare guitar stolen from a property on Gladstone Road, Barry, sometime between 1pm and 6pm on Tuesday, January 17.

The custom-made Rothstien Stratocaster is worth around £800 to £1,000 and has the name 'Rothstien' printed on the neck with the letters 'EMG' in gold letters on the body. It is believed that only a handful of this particular model can be found in the UK.

Contact Barry Police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



ABOVE: The Rothstien Stratocaster guitar.

Penarth Computer Club AGM keeps it short and snappy!

ANNUAL General Meetings (AGMs) are not very exciting events. People tell you what you already know and ask for approval for more of the same. The trick is to keep the unexciting bits to a minimum and spend time doing something interesting!

At our recent AGM the minutes of the previous meeting, the officers' reports and the financial reports were kept brief and printed out for all to read while the meeting assembled.

With 21 members present, the meeting progressed speedily. I welcomed them, wished them a happy new year and formally presented the reports.

The reports included recognition of the work of various individuals who contributed to the smooth operation of the club.

Officers' reports were accepted without question, as was the audited financial report, which showed a modest surplus on the year.

The reserve fund was satisfac-

tory. With no significant expenditure planned it was recommended that the annual subscription remain at £5. It has been held at that level since the club started in 1992.

The reason for the low annual fee is that most of the club's costs are for the use of the premises and they are covered by the meeting fees (which also have not changed for some years).

The committee comprises the same people as last year, albeit with some changes of individual responsibility.

I continue as chairman and I'm also covering the vacant treasurer's post. Mike F will continue to collect the meeting fees and assumes the office of secretary.

Steve steps down as vice-chairman owing to the pressures of work, but will continue on the committee and provide technical support. The vice-chairmanship is taken by Mike J, to add to his duties as the club's webmaster.

Rhona will also continue on the committee and the auditor will again be Mrs Seymour.

All the above adjustments and appointments were approved without dissent and a vote of

thanks was given to the committee for their work on behalf of the members. The formal AGM was then closed.

After a break for refreshments the meeting reassembled to discuss the forthcoming programme and to identify topics to suit the needs of the membership.

In particular, it seemed that the concept of short sessions at the start of meetings was found to be a useful means of refreshing some of the basics that we all forget from time to time.

Indeed, a few of the basics were mentioned there and then and indicated that occasionally some basics are by-passed completely!

More Brains Trust question and answer evenings were requested and the committee will meet to compile and present a full programme at the next meeting.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, January 24 at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth at 7.30pm. The topic is planned to be about Open Office free software! For more information telephone 029 20708439.

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'Grime fighters' idea - is it the way forward?

THE article last week in the GEM entitled 'Owners who flout the law on dog fouling should be brought to heel' received a swift response from local residents and politicians.

In the piece, two Vale men, Mr Matthew Jones of Barry, and Mr Ian Govier from Rhosce, said it was time firm action was taken against offenders.

Mr Jones said he wouldn't be visiting Barry Island beach until dogs were banned after the dog mess he witnessed recently.

Mr Govier appealed to the Vale Council to adopt 'shock and awe' tactics, suggesting: "Impose some heavy fines on people and publish their names."

Mr Ron Powell, who has lived on the Island for almost seven years, contacted The GEM to say that while received wisdom on the topic was that the offenders comprised 'a small minority', he believed it was a large minority.

He explained: "My wife and I live on Barry Island and walk the coastal path twice daily."

"The Island is blighted with dog mess all year round, but especially over the months when dogs are allowed on the beach, when the number roaming all over the Island rises amazingly."

"The party line has always been that it is a small minority who don't clean up after their dogs, but increasingly, we feel this has become a far bigger number of people."

'QUALITY OF LIFE'
Mr Powell is also the chairman of the local PACT and said the issue was repeatedly raised by local residents.

"Those making howls of protest should come

and see the amount of dog mess on the Island.

"The council does its best, but no sooner have they cleared up than fresh piles appear."

"The only way that dog owners can be sure mess is cleaned up is to keep their dogs in sight at all times. But even some who keep their dogs close often turn a blind eye to fouling, feigning surprise when it's pointed out."

"Others seem to assume they only need to clear up mess on paths, not in the grass, even when it is so close to the tarmac that anyone stepping aside to let someone pass is likely to step in it."

"Any dog that is running free - way ahead or behind someone - is never going to have its mess cleaned up."

"Similarly, families that send their children out with dogs seldom seem to equip the children to clear up."

Mr Powell said that relaxing walks were hardly a pleasure when people were having to dodge round dog mess.

"Although we hate to see it, and seem to spend our whole lives stepping round it, it's not just a matter of aesthetics."

"Dog mess has an adverse effect on our quality of life."

"We used to take an extra, short, walk round Nell's Point after our evening meal; even in the winter, it's always light enough to find your way, but not to see all the dog mess."

"I know we could take a torch, but they destroy night vision and we like to look at the stars."

"This year, after stepping in dog mess on three occasions in swift succession, we've become reluctant to take our evening walk."

"I'm afraid we doubt the effectiveness of the dog wardens in address-

ing the problem. I'm sure they reach their target in handing out blue bags and chatting to dog walkers, but remaining static and visible above the beach is never going to deter those whose dogs persistently foul the area."

"Only catching them, fining and publicly shaming them will do the trick and deter others."

'GETTING TOUGH'

One independent Vale councillor, Richard Bertin, said that as part of his 2012 election manifesto, he was pledging his support in getting tough on dog fouling in the area.

Coun Bertin, who represents the Court ward said that many residents had been in touch expressing their concerns about the increase of dog fouling in the area.

He said: "I have been regularly discussing this matter with local residents who are adamant that they want to see the Vale Council take strict action in this area."

"I am now happy to inform GEM readers that in my 2012 council election manifesto is a commitment to put pressure on the council to launch a new dog fouling campaign."

Coun Bertin said he favoured stricter enforcement, stickers on bins and better education. He said he would be going round his ward with a petition demanding more forceful action by the council.

Coun Chris Elmore of Castleland ward said that if Labour took control of the council in May, it would introduce 'grime fighters' to tackle the problem head on.

He said: "The ongoing problem of dog mess has been the subject of many readers' letters in recent weeks with many letters calling on the Conservative run council to take action."

"As a Labour Group, if elected to run the Vale Council when elections are held in May of this year, we are committed to increasing the amount of dog wardens throughout the Vale and introduce dedicated 'grime fighters' for each of our major towns across the county."

"These staff will be there to serve local communities and face the challenge of dog mess, graffiti and rubbish dumping head on, ensuring our towns and villages are cleaner and greener places to live and enjoy."

The Vale Council says that dog owners have a legal duty to clean up after their pets, and that if there is sufficient evidence, people will be hit with a Fixed Penalty Notice costing them £75.

However, it points out that enforcement officers cannot be at any location for 24 hours a day.

TIM CHAPMAN

BARRY HAS BEST-STAFFED RAILWAY STATION IN WALES

BARRY Train Station was chosen last week as Wales' best staffed station at the Tidy Wales Awards.

A spokeswoman explained the prestigious 21st annual Tidy Wales Awards ceremony, sponsored by Environment Agency Wales recognises community groups, schools and voluntary organisations from across Wales that have made real and lasting efforts to restore their local environments to

their former glory.

Many of the sites tackled will have suffered many years of neglect and without the efforts of the award recipients, they would have remained blights on the landscape.

For the second year running, Arriva Trains Wales have sponsored two categories for train stations. Members of the public were asked to vote for the cleanest 'staffed' and 'unstaffed' stations in Wales.

After tallying up the total number of votes cast on the Arriva Trains

website, it was announced that the winner of Wales's best staffed station was Barry.

The group was presented with a trophy and cheque for £250 by the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, John Griffiths at a ceremony at the Pierhead Building, Cardiff Bay.

BBC television and radio personality Sian Thomas introduced the various categories.

Environment Minister, John Griffiths said: "I am



John Griffiths (left) with Barry Railway Station staff.

delighted to present this year's awards. The Welsh Government is committed to supporting initiatives that improve our environment. All the shortlisted groups should be proud of their achievements and I encourage other groups to follow their lead."

Lesley Jones, Chief Executive of Keep Wales Tidy commented: "We

are so pleased that we are able to recognise our volunteers' tireless and important work. The event allows us to highlight a wide variety of achievements and contributions from all over Wales."

"Our thanks also to all the organisations that sponsor the event as it couldn't happen without their support."

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MAYOR CONGRATULATES THE VALE LIBRARY STAFF



Vale Mayor Coun John Clifford, with staff from the Vale libraries who have completed their Frontline course.

THE Vale Mayor, Coun John Clifford, has congratulated local library staff who have successfully completed a Frontline course.

The online course links together libraries

around the world to enable staff to change the library experience for readers.

In all, 70 staff from Vale libraries have now completed the course.

A happy (Chinese) New Year!



Pupils celebrate the Chinese New Year.

A fun lunchtime was had at Gwenfo Primary School, which celebrated the Chinese New Year on Monday, January 23 with an authentic sweet and sour chicken and watermelon for dessert.

The children enjoyed getting to grips with their chopsticks, courtesy of Wagamamas, Cardiff Library.

"Many thanks to Waitrose, Barry, for donating the watermelons and thank you to Wagamamas for the chopsticks," said a spokeswoman.

School gymnastics team celebrates novice success



The year 8/9 gym team standing on the winner's podium (centre) with the year-7 team.

PICTURED: Jennifer Ford (headteacher), Joe Vaughan and Martin Gillies (Head of IT).

BARRY Comprehensive School's year-7 and years 8/9 gym teams are celebrating their success in the Welsh novice gym championships.

The teams first competed in the Cardiff and Vale competition before progressing to the Welsh finals at Sophia Gardens where they competed in two tumble and two vault routines.

The year-8/9s achieved first place and the year-7 team achieved second place.

The year-7 team of Harrison Riseborough, Harry Carter, Ryan Hodge, Oliver Bartlett, Thomas Throssell and Cameron Thomas and the year-8/9 team of Curtis Langford-Scott, Lewis Watkins, Macauley Steele, Matthew Cassidy and Benjamin Morgan-Brownhill were coached to success by Mr A Thomas, who joined Barry Comprehensive for teacher-training while studying at UWIC.

TOP AWARD FOR JOSEPH
FORMER Barry Comprehensive School



student Joseph Vaughan gained the highest mark of all the candidates in the country who studied A Level Applied ICT with the Welsh Joint Education Committee (WJEC) last year.

The WJEC, the examining board for Wales, is celebrating the achievements of the highest achieving A Level candidates by awarding cash prizes and certificates.

Garth Pierce, the WJEC chief executive, commented in a letter accompanying the award that: "This is an outstanding achievement and evidence of the hard work that Joseph and his teachers put into preparing for the examinations."

Joe is currently in the middle of a gap year gaining practical experience of working in IT at Holder Mathias Architects before returning to full time education to study for a degree in computing.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL VARIOUS ROADS, CARDIFF AIRPORT (VARIOUS PROHIBITIONS, RESTRICTIONS AND LIMITATIONS TO VEHICLE AND PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENTS) (ANTI-TERRORISM) (TEMPORARY) ORDER 2012

1. On the 26th January 2012 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Sections 14(1) and 22C of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the Schedules below.

2. The Order will come into operation on the 30th January 2012 and a copy of the Order may be seen at the address shown below during normal office hours.

3. If you wish to question the validity of the Order or any provisions contained therein on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act or on the grounds that any requirement of the same or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 30th January 2012 apply to the High Court for this purpose.

Except as provided by this Order:

No person shall proceed on foot or cause or permit any vehicle or cycle to proceed, stop or wait at any time, in the location specified within the Schedule below.

SCHEDULE

Location: All roads between the roundabout where the airport access road meets the A4226/B4265 and the junctions where the two airport access roads meet Port Road.

Reasons: These prohibitions, restrictions and limitations are made for the purpose of avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the roads; avoiding, reducing, or reducing the likelihood of, danger connected with terrorism or for a purpose relating to danger or damage connected with terrorism (as defined in Section 1 of the Terrorism Act 2000).

Duration: From 18.01 hours on 30th January 2012 for a maximum period of 18 Months.

Alt Route: The diversions for south east bound traffic will be from the roundabout adjacent to the Aircraft Maintenance Facility, then in a south easterly direction along the A4226 to the roundabout at the junction with Port Road then in a south westerly direction along Port Road, to the Airport and vice-versa.

Dated this 26th day of January 2012

M E Punter
Head of Visible Services, Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe, CF5 6AA



CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG AMRYWIOL FFYRDD, MAES AWYR CAERDYDD (AMRYWIOL WAHARDDIADAU A CHYFYNGIADAU AR SYMUDIADAU GAN GERBYDAU A CHERDDWYR) GORCHYMYN (GWRTHDERFYSGAETH) (DROS DRO) 2012

1. Ar Ionawr 26 2012 gwnaeth Cyngor Bro Morgannwg wrth arfer ei bwerau o dan Adranau 14(1) a 22C o Ddeddf Rheoleiddio Traffig Ffyrrd 1984 a'r holl bwerau galluogi eraill, Orchymyn gyda'r effaith gyffredinol a ddisgrifir yn yr Atodlen isod.

2. Daw'r Gorchymyn i rym ar 30 Ionawr 2012 a bydd copi o'r Gorchymyn i'w weld yn y cyfeiriad a ddangosir isod yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol.

3. Os hoffech gwestiynu dilysrwydd y Gorchymyn neu unrhyw ddarpariaethau oddi mewn iddo ar y sail nad dyndt o fewn y pwerau a roddwyd yn y Ddeddf uchod neu ar y sail na chafwyd cydymffurfiaeth yn achos unrhyw ofnydd o'i eiddo neu unrhyw offeryn yn ddarostyngedig iddo mewn pethynas â'r Gorchymyn, cewch o fewn chwech wythnos o 30 Ionawr 2012 wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys i'r perwyl hwn.

Heblaw fel y darperir gan y Gorchymyn hwn:

Ni chaniateir i unrhyw berson fynd ar droed neu beri neu ganiatáu i unrhyw gerbyd neu feic i fynd, stopio neu aros ar unrhyw adeg, yn y lleoliad a enwir o fewn yr Atodlen isod.

ATODLEN

Lleoliad: Pob ffordd rhwng y gylchfan sy'n cysylltu ffordd fynediad y maes awyr â'r A4226/B4265 a'r cyffwrdd sy'n cysylltu dwy ffordd fynediad y maes awyr â Port Road.

Rhesymau: Bwriad y gwaharddiadau a'r chyfyngiadau yma yw i osgoi perygl i unigolion neu draffig arall sy'n defnyddio'r ffyrdd; gan osgoi, leihau, neu leihau'r tebygolrwydd o'r perygl a gysylltir â threfysgaeth neu o fwrdd yn gysylltiedig â pherygl neu ddifrod sy'n gysylltiedig â threfysgaeth (yn ôl y diffiniad yn Adran 1 o Ddeddf Derfysgaeth 2000).

Hyd: O 18.01 ar 30 Ionawr 2012 am fwyafswm cyfnod o 18 mis.

Lwybr Amgen: Bydd gwyradau ar gyfer traffig i gyfeiriad y de ddwyrai yn dechrau ar y gylchfan ger y Ganolfan Cynnal a Chwad Awyrennau, yna mewn cyfeiriad de ddwyreiniol ar hyd yr A4226 hyd at y gylchfan ar y gyffwrdd gyda Port Road ac yna mewn cyfeiriad de orllewinol ar hyd Port Road, i'r Maes Awyr, ac i'r gwrthwyneb.

Dyddiedig y 26 dydd o Ionawr 2012

M. E. Punter
Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Gweladwy,
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfa'r Alpau,
Gwenfô. CF5 6AA.



NCI AT NELL'S POINT SET FOR ANNIVERSARY

THE National Coastwatch Institution Station situated at Nell's Point, Barry Island, is about to celebrate its fifth anniversary on February 16.

It is one of 46 stations situated around the UK coastline and was the first to open in Wales.

Since that time, four other stations have opened in the principality at Worms Head, Rossilli, Wooltack Point, Pembrokeshire and Porthdinllaen and Rhoscolyn in North Wales.

Nell's Point has a volunteer membership of 47 watchkeepers, the majority of whom reside in the Vale.

The station is open 365 days a year, ensuring that sea and coastline surveillance is maintained during day-light hours, working

closely with their main partners HM Coastguard, Swansea.

During 2011 the station completed 6,168 hours on watch, logging 3,154 commercial ships and 4,202 leisure craft.

NCI is a registered charity, and many of the volunteers are involved in fundraising events ensuring sufficient monies are raised to pay for the equipment needed at the station as well as paying the utilities and running costs.

Manager Terry Ewington said: "We at Nell's Point are very proud of being a member of the UK's search and rescue partnership.

"Our purpose is to spot, plot, report and respond with the aim of minimising any delay in getting assistance to someone who may be in peril."

Marie Curie on the move?

The GEM has learned that the much-loved Marie Curie Cancer Care hospice at Penarth could move to a site alongside Velindre Hospital in Cardiff.

The 30-bed hospice is one of the Vale's great causes and is located in Penarth with spectacular views across the Bristol Channel.

It offers specialist care for people with cancer and other life-limiting illnesses.

A spokeswoman for Marie Curie told The GEM: "A possible opportunity to move the Marie Curie hospice, Penarth, closer to the region's main cancer hospital at Velindre is being explored."

"Velindre is a major referrer of patients to the hospice and in the interests of providing the best possible care to our patients and families, the charity has been involved in some early stage conversations."

"Marie Curie Cancer Care is committed to providing quality end of life

care for people across south-east Wales, and the Marie Curie hospice in Penarth continues to provide expert care, and the best possible quality of life, for people with cancer and other illnesses completely free of charge."

The GEM understands that a planned £1.7m refurbishment of Marie Curie in Penarth in April will not go ahead until the charity has fully considered the new option of relocating to land adjacent to Velindre.

TIM CHAPMAN

Fundraising group stages a 'funtastic' event for hospice



Peter Griffiths (chairman), Jill Groves, Bill Barker, Laura O'Connor and Sonia Prosser with Hello Kitty and Minnie and Micky Mouse.

THE Marie Curie Cancer Care's Barry fundraising group, launched on November 26, is celebrating the success of its first fundraising event.

Members approached local businesses in Barry for raffle prizes and donations for their table top sale in Colcot Community Centre on December 17.

Stalls included face painting, tombola and even special guests Minnie and Mickey Mouse, Peppa Pig and Hello Kitty were also present!

Peter Griffiths, chairperson, said: "We are thrilled with the support we've received from the local residents and businesses of Barry. We had a fantastic day and we're very proud to be raising money to help patients at the Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth."

The day was a great success and the group raised a fantastic £346.34, which will help provide extra nursing care to terminally ill patients totally free of charge at the Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth and in patients' own homes.

The Barry fundraising group will be organising daffodil collections in Barry during February and March, and are also organising a golf day at Maesteg Golf Club on May 18.

To take part in the golf day and to enter a team, contact Peter Griffiths on 07843 513386.

Santes Dwynwen at Iolo



Children from the reception class show off their cards and present them to the Bay Tree show in Cowbridge.

CHILDREN at Ysgol Iolo Morganwg celebrated Welsh Valentine's Day – Santes Dwynwen – in style yesterday (January 25). They were busy making cards and planning a special disco in honour of the Welsh saint.

Leekes expands!

PONTYCLUN-based Leekes department store is close to receiving planning approval to redevelop a former Makro site near Coventry City Football Club.

The new store, at more than 130,000 sqft, will be the largest department store within a 50-mile radius.

Emma Leek, the managing director of Leekes, said: "We are absolutely delighted that we gained unanimous support from the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council planning committee, who have resolved to grant us planning permission."

"We hope to gain a favourable response from the Secretary of State in the next few weeks, to enable us to begin work at the site."

Choir gears up

HAVING enjoyed a very busy 2011, Barry Male Voice Choir is now looking forward to "an even busier 2012".

Chairman Gareth Roberts commented: "We are very proud of our community involvement. During the course of last year, the choir was involved in 23 performances, including those at Barry and Llandough hospitals, and at several nursing homes."

"We made thousands of pounds for various charities. This year is a very special year for the choir, as it is our 110th anniversary and we are determined to celebrate this milestone in style."

"Our new uniforms, a visit to France and an invitation from the Royal Navy to take part in a commissioning ceremony at Portsmouth in April has given us a foretaste of the excitement that lies ahead."

"At present, we are learning new music for future performances. Now would be an ideal time for any man interested in joining the choir to pay us a visit, at practice in Trinity Church Hall on Mondays, or Thursdays, at 7.30pm, where a warm welcome awaits."

Further information can be viewed on www.barrymalevoicechoir.co.uk

What's in your bin?

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NEWS FROM THE BARRY MEN'S FORUM

Ex-teacher recalls what life was like in Solomon Islands

AT THE last meeting, former teacher Rosemary Scadden took members of the forum to the sunshine and blue seas of the Solomon Islands.

In the late 1960s, she had lived for years in Uganda before moving to Scotland. The climate there proved something of a trial after Africa and feeling a need for warmth and sunshine she moved, with her family, to the Solomon Islands.

Rosemary found this part of the world fascinating and soon learned of the role it had played during the Second World War. She discovered 'Kennedy

Island', to which the late President had swum when his boat had been attacked and sunk by the Japanese. It is now a family site for picnics.

Our speaker showed several slides of how the area was in the late 60s and how it is today. Some of the changes were gone into during her talk.

Independence from British rule was gained in 1978, but now soldiers from Australia and New Zealand have to assist the civil authorities in keeping peace.

The standard of English taught has deteriorated sharply since Mrs Scadden taught this subject many years ago, and the

use of pidgin English is now predominant.

The threat of malaria was constant and every six months the inside of their house had to be sprayed with DDT. Since our speaker lived there, mosquitos have built up a resistance to their deterrent and the problem remains.

The population has doubled over the last 30 years and when Rosemary returned on a visit five years ago everything seemed far more crowded than previously.

During her talk, Mrs Scadden reminded us of the history of the Solomon Islands and the sacrifices made during

the last war. After the Americans landed, it took six long months to defeat the Japanese forces, who lost some 22,000 men in the process. To this day a Shinto priest comes from Japan every year to honour the memory of the fallen.

The next meeting will be on January 26, when Carol Evans will speak on 'Three decades at Poonchotai Home - India.'

Meetings are held at 10:30am on Thursdays in the hall of the United Reformed Church in Barry. New members welcome. Telephone 02920 594881. MAC TANNER



The day Barry Island avoided an eco disaster

by TIM CHAPMAN

SINCE January 13, the world has been gripped by the drama of the Italian cruise liner the Costa Concordia which ran aground on Giglio Island.

The great fear faced by the authorities and salvage experts is that fuel tanks might leak, leading to major pollution.

On the early morning of April 8, 1970, that fate - an oil spill - befell Barry Island.

And yet for many people in south Wales it is a relatively unknown event.

Two oil tankers collided off Lavernock Point.

The Esso Ipswich (1,500 tons) registered in London, came into contact with the Greek-owned Efthicosta (15,895 tons). The Greek vessel sustained a 10 feet gash on the port side forward of the bridge.

The fore tank was ruptured and tons of oil spilled into the Bristol Channel.

One man who remembers that day very clearly is Mr Idris Michael (89) of Plymouth Road, Barry Island.

"I was in the back garden and a neighbour said to me: 'Come and look at this!'"

Clouds of black smoke were rising into the air.

Mr Michael raced down to Whitmore Bay.

"There was a huge patch of oil over the beach. The authorities had started to burn it off."

"It was a very brave decision. They acted quickly to ensure that the oil wasn't brought further up the beach by the next tide."

"From 50 yards away, you could feel the heat of the flames."

A keen photographer, Mr Michael took some images of that day on his camera.

The operation was very successful as Mr Michael explained: "When I returned to the beach, after the operation was complete, where there had been big patches of oil, there was nothing left - not even a spoonful of dust."

Ten years ago, at a local history event, Mr Michael put on a slide show at Barry Island Community Hall to show what had happened that day in 1970.

"I'd say more than 80 per cent of the people didn't even know the event had happened."

A friend who saw Mr Michael's photographs suggested he contact The GEM because they were of interest.

If anyone else has an interesting image of the past, we would be delighted to hear from them

at: gemeditorial@rindle-news.co.uk or by post at the address on page 2.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D706.

● £2,000: 269958.
● The rollover, which now stands at £2,500, was not won this week.

● £10: 2 7 4 0 2 0.
235690, 784765, 309902, 283782, 635210, 773713, 841241, 190915, 545812, 437024, 703010, 308093, 483420, 356857, 286163, 741638, 179802, 344496, 243183.

● £5: 410942, 146246, 271609, 512667, 437858, 871831, 665518, 312045, 171753, 647768, 328297, 796355, 539937, 933969,

481373, 863473, 443533, 341163, 887270, 611476, 510457, 777325, 301638, 649610, 361665, 891563, 595036, 301067, 328887, 659852, 699618, 860413, 278927, 139113, 499627, 693759, 979770, 507300, 820789, 584530, 396449, 113296, 305978, 857264, 113040, 843837, 358175, 594620, 272999, 276820, 685012, 497937, 529381, 738028, 776817, 514046, 402870, 460555, 357798, 398711.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.



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Company director Craig Harewood says some customers are unaware of the difference between an Orangery and Conservatory so we would like to take the opportunity to explain. With Future Orangeries coming more and more Popular offering their unique style and contemporary look. You can design your Orangery / Conservatory whichever way you wish and that's where we can help you we have a full design package which lets you see your designs attached to your current property before hand, which again Craigs says, helps customers who are unsure of the end result.

An Orangery has a slightly different take on traditional conservatories with their brick pillars and lantern style roof. Orangeries offer more privacy than conservatory styles the interior height provides a breathtaking focal point through which light floods in to your home. Today's orangeries, like conservatory styles, are generally buildings with glazed sides and brick or wood supports. Orangeries use less glass. Conservatory offer more of a traditional style roof ranging from Lean to through to double hip depending on size and style. Visit our website at futurewindowsolutions.co.uk or contact our team free on 0800 032 0921.

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Wartime Weekend will highlight the stories of GI brides from the Vale

THE 'Wartime Weekend' to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the American troops coming to the Vale will take place on June 16-17, at the Barry Waterfront.

To continue the series about some of the Barry women who married GIs during the Second World War, here is a quote from the history of the 863rd Ordnance Heavy Automotive Maintenance Company:

"Our commanding officer, Captain Irving Peter Nelson, took unto himself a wife, Miss Betty Farmer (a member of the Women's Royal Naval Service) in Barry, south Wales on April 24, 1944, the ceremony being attended by Colonel George C Pilkington, the Company Officers, and some British Naval Officers stationed at Barry."

Betty Nelson's daughter, Joy, describes how her parents first met: "According to 'legend,' dad and mom met when he and his army buddy were standing at a railroad station.

"They both spotted my mom on the platform and quickly took her arms - one on one side and one on the other. After a few steps, my dad looked at his friend and said something to the effect of 'This one's mine.'"



Peter and Betty Nelson on their wedding day.

"Since he was the higher ranking officer, the 'rest is history,' as we say here in the States."

Betty's journey to the USA took about two weeks. Joy explains: "Dad met my mom at the pier in New York City. He purchased a used car with a couple of hundred dollars and he believed that he had enough money left over to drive my mom to his parent's house in Oregon (on the west coast).

"In those days, roads were not well-marked, maps weren't always helpful, and cash was the only form of payment accepted in most establishments."

"Unexpected expenses mounted as the car broke down several times."

"To make matters worse, the young couple spent one entire day driving and, in spite of good intentions, ended up only a few miles from where they had started."

"Ultimately, they got to Oregon with only a small bag of popcorn to eat and a few gallons of gas to spare."

Betty's decision to marry an American had significant consequences for her family. In 1957 her brother, Stuart, also went to live in the United States.

He reminisces: "In the US I worked for the Exxon Oil Company for 30 years and retired in 1987."

"My mom and dad came here for a visit in 1960 to see if he liked it. They returned in 1963, and stayed until he died, 19 years later at the age of 89."

"He said that he had never lived until he came here and enjoyed fishing with my brother-in-law on the Columbia River and in the Pacific Ocean."

Stuart says of her sister and brother-in-law: "They had a wonderful life together."

Peter Nelson died of a heart attack in 1995. Betty passed away a few months later.

To be continued...

GLENN BOOKER

RNLI BREAKFAST

MEMBERS of the Cowbridge RNLI branch will be making breakfast or coffee and croissant at the Lesser Town Hall, Cowbridge, on Saturday, January 28, between 9am and 12pm to mark the RNLI National Fundraising Day.

"Come and join us - help support the Lifeboats," they appeal.

Table top sale

A TABLE top sale in aid of restoration will be held at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge, on Saturday, February 4 from 10am-12.30pm. New and good quality items available.

Another Great GEM competition in conjunction with

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15 Cards to be won!

A new range of children's birthday cards, packed with games, puzzles, stickers, colouring, stories, word-searches and even recipes, has been launched.

Cardooo cards are crammed full of relevant and entertaining content that will keep the most active child amused for hours. You can give your birthday boy or girl the chance to build a Wild West town, play with animals from around the world or navigate to a treasure island. There is even a fold out board game, complete with dice, contained within the card.

Cardoos are the perfect way to send greetings to your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and godchildren. Their ideal size means they are easily posted in the UK and across the globe - a quick and easy way to send a present without hefty postage costs. Titles include Wild West, Around the World, Ballet, Space, Pets and Football, with two official Doctor Who tie-ins completing the range. All cards are priced at £2.99, and are available from branches of WH Smith.

For your chance to win one of these fantastic cards, answer the question and send your answer, together with your name, address and telephone number to Glamorgan Gem (Cardooo Card Competition) 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL.

Question: What is the price of the new Cardooo Card?

The closing date for entries is Friday, February 3.

No cash alternative.

Normal competitions rules apply.



Who killed an ideal, and Dixon of Dock Green?

THE president welcomed the members to the first meeting of 2012 and wished them all a 'happy and healthy new year'.

Sadly, she announced the death of one of the oldest past members, Dorothy Patch, a lady in her 90s who had been a very enthusiastic member for many years.

At our cake stall at the Dickensian Evening on December 2, we managed to make £76 even though it was one of the wettest nights of the year, and some of our lovely home-made cakes became rather soggy.

Members had attended two carol concerts, one at Brangwyn Hall for the Glamorgan Federation, and one in Ely for our 'link group'.

Both had been very enjoyable, especially the link one – again the rain was torrential, but the church was very warm

DINAS POWYS WI NEWS

and welcoming.

Business proceeded as usual. We have many events to look forward to: a visit to Denman College, the NFWI conference in Aberystwyth, our birthday dinner on March 29, a 'Tai Chi Taster' on Monday, April 2 at Pencoed Welfare Hall, The Glamorgan spring council meeting at Barry Memorial Hall on Wednesday, April 18, and the annual general meeting at The Royal Albert Hall on May 30, when we will be represented by a Penarth member.

We are hoping to run a couple of coach trips this year – a visit to Avebury Manor and a trip to the botanical gardens in west Wales.

Members were asked for other suggestions.

Our speaker for the evening was Derry Moore, a retired super-

intendent of police, who posed the question: Who killed Dixon of Dock Green?

He was ably assisted by Gwyn McGuire. Derry began by giving us a brief history of policing, with slides from early times.

Derry started in 1958 and has moved around Glamorgan during his career. When he began he carried a truncheon, a whistle and a pair of handcuffs.

He spent his time walking the beat, by day on the outside of the pavement and by night on the inside so that he could 'shake hands' with all the door handles of business premises.

There used to be community policing when a citizen was appointed locally to protect life and property, maintain law and order, prevent and detect crime and identify offenders of the law.

The death of Dixon of Dock Green happened in 1979. It was the end of the ideal of community policing as panda cars were introduced to forces.

All officers were then allocated a car and a radio. The public suffered because of lack of

policemen walking the beat. When Jack Warner, who played Dixon died, his coffin was carried by members of the metropolitan police; Dixon was the most popular policeman on television.

In the 1970s, there were two serious crimes carried out in Dinas Powys, a murder and a stabbing.

In 2011 there were four vehicle crimes, 17 anti social behaviour offences and 12 burglaries.

Now we have police community officers, who have no powers to arrest offenders, just to report crimes.

More people are employed indoors rather than out on the streets. We thoroughly enjoyed our talk which was educational and interesting.

The competition was a piece of police memorabilia and was won by Sally Anderson – an old police belt.

The raffle was won by Midge Watson. We look forward to our February meeting on the 7th when our speaker will be Mike Wilcock talking about 'Stories of a 60s Dance Promoter'.

We look forward to welcoming Mike and the members to Lee Hall at 7.30 pm.

BETI DIGBY

Sun shines on hike through Newton Burrows sand dunes

TWELVE walkers met up with Joy, Bracken and Bronte on the coast at Newton on a glorious sunny morning, but with a brisk easterly wind blowing.

The high tide did the group a favour and as the beach was unavailable they set off through narrow sandy paths in Newton Burrows where back in 1973 a 3,000 year old tomb was discovered, probably one of the many burial sites in an area where the Celts and Romans settled.

Making their way inland into what remains of Merthyr Mawr Warren, an area of special scientific interest and once the largest sand dune complex in Britain, they tramped over the disused rifle range and entered woods.

The hazel trees in the area are coppiced, which is a traditional form of wood management where young tree stems are repeatedly cut down towards the ground to encourage many new shoots. It takes between seven and twenty years before they can be harvested and depending on the type of tree, material can be used for making hurdles, thatching, poles, firewood and charcoal burning and the

PENARTH RAMBLERS

age of the tree can be roughly estimated from its diameter.

Being protected from the wind the temperature soon rose and hats and gloves were discarded as they journeyed on to leave the dunes and join the lane towards Candleston Farm, where a steep rocky lane led them into the valley.

This area is something of a watercourse; it is extremely wet in winter and dry in summer and is known as a winterbourne. The stream in the field opposite them was running and they had to paddle their way through the mud and water along the lane to reach drier sandy paths that led towards the ruined Candleston Castle.

During the late 14th century the Cantelupe family built this fortified manor house but their estate land became submerged by the shifting sand following storms which made it useless.

The house remained occupied until the 19th century but was very much altered and is now an ivy-clad ruin.

From Merthyr Mawr car park the group re-entered the dunes finding a grassy spot a little further on that was completely sheltered from

the wind. In brilliant sunshine they stopped and enjoyed a refreshment break.

Moving on, they followed paths towards the River Ogmore, which surfaces to the north of Treorchy and flows down to reach the open sea at Ogmore.

On the way to the estuary the blustery east wind hit them face on, but luckily, because they were turning southwest, it would be on their backs for the journey back across Traeth yr Afon.

The high tides had dumped many fallen trees onto the tideline but had also managed to clear a lot of the plastic debris that usually litters the place.

Reaching the Black Rocks it was easy to imagine how the villagers took advantage of the many ships that were wrecked there and on

nearby Tusker Rock, as Newton was the only harbour on the coastline between Aberthaw and Briton Ferry and smuggling was rife.

They met other people, dogs and even horse riders out enjoying the weather as they made their way back to Newton after what had been a fantastic half-day walk.

On January 29, meet at 9am at Cogan for a 6-7 mile/moderate walk in the Libanus area from Brecon Mountain Centre; contact Val H on 029 2051 3274.

The replacement for the scheduled January 28 walk will meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for an 8-mile mod/hard walk taking in Sgwd yr Eira waterfall in the Neath Valley, from Penderyn; contact Clive on 029 2065 4156.

Membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Valeways walks

ON Tuesday, January 31, at 1.30pm, there will be a Porthkerry mystery walk. Those interested should meet outside All Saints Church, Park Road, Barry.

Dyfan surgery

DYFAN Ward members councillors Katherine Kemp and Marguerita Wright, will be holding a surgery at Buttrills Community Centre on Saturday, January 28, between 10am and 11am. No appointments are necessary.

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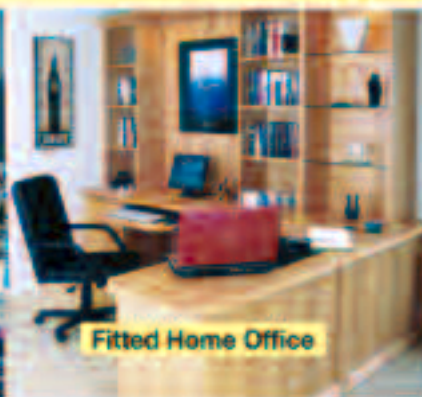
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Out and About with The GEM

Hoover biopic feels less than the sum of its parts

LEOONARDO DiCaprio has successfully gone from teen heartthrob to 'serious' actor, snaffling award nominations and kudos as he has embarked on something of a hot streak, his work with Martin Scorsese in particular mightily impressive.

He has big shoes to fill this time around, under the direction Clint Eastwood, in the biopic *J. Edgar*.

DiCaprio plays the titular character, as we see his rise to becoming

head of the FBI, and take a close look at his personal life, particularly his relationships with mother (played by Judi Dench) and right-hand man Clyde Tolson (Armie Hammer).

As we are in the midst of the awards season, it seems fitting that DiCaprio should be dusting off the biopic jacket; after all, his turns as con man Frank Abagnale Jr in *Catch Me If You Can* and Howard Hughes in *The Aviator* both tickled the fancies of award voters, if not clinching the big statues come ceremony time.

His turn as one of the most capricious figures in American history will likely yield yet more laurels, but is likely to come undone at the final hurdle, not unlike the film itself. While *J. Edgar* is an intriguing and gripping look at the life of Hoover, it lacks the punch to really deliver a knock-out blow.

Certainly, the pedigree is all there – top director, renowned screenwriter and a wonderful cast – yet the parts form slightly less

SCREEN TALK



by
GARETH JAMIESON

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than their whole. The 137-minute running time is adequate to deal with such a monumental subject, but sags in places, and the film does not quite convey the impact of the events it depicts.

Having gained such kudos for his screenplay for *Milk*, Dustin Lance Black attempts to por-

tray another historic character, and his screenplay does a wonderful job of conveying the tumultuous personal life of Hoover, his relationships with both his mother and Clyde Tolson partly being reflected in the actions he took in his professional life.

But Black is more at home with the former rather than the latter, the historical context feeling undernourished compared to the person behind them, and the zig-zag narrative structure a tad too ambitious.

In the title role, DiCaprio delivers yet another fine turn, portraying Hoover through the years and never once looking or feeling unconvincing, even with prosthetics.

With such a meaty character DiCaprio shines, giving his not inconsiderable dramatic heft to proceedings and his performance.

While not one of his best, it is still a notch above most turns.

Alongside him, Hammer parlays his *Social Network* promise into a fully rounded turn as Hoover's right-hand man. The openly gay character's heartbreak at Hoover's reticence to commit to him is beautifully realised by the actor, even if his prosthetics undo his turn as Tolson reaches his dotage.

Naomi Watts brings a quiet resolve to the role of Hoover's personal secretary.

Given that the relationship Hoover shared with his mother is such

an important part of the story, Judi Dench's turn is small but mighty; the actress showing the unflinching personality of a woman who placed so much stock in her fitting an ideal that he was always going to fall short of.

For Clint Eastwood, this 35th directorial effort lacks the impact of his recent work, the director bringing a gorgeous visual sensibility to the different time periods (not unlike *Changeling*), but he does less well marshalling the narrative cohesively. The film feels patchy and lacks Eastwood's usual clarity.

While another strong snapshot of history, *J. Edgar* won't stand up as a definitive look at Hoover, the film only hinting at elements that could have been explored more easily in a longer format. As such, while the pedigree is there, the quality is lacking somewhat; it feels more like a take-away curry than the sumptuous feast it could, and should, have been.

VERDICT – A compelling, if unfocused, piece of work, *J. Edgar* has all the right ingredients, but the mix just doesn't quite sit right. Strong performances from Leonardo DiCaprio and Armie Hammer help paper over some of the cracks, but the film still feels less than the sum of its parts. *Enjoyable. SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: The Aviator (2004), Nixon (1995).*

WHAT'S ON IN AND AROUND YOUR AREA

Cowbridge surgery COUNCILLORS
Geoff Cox and Hunter Jarvie, Vale Council Cowbridge ward members, will be holding a surgery on Saturday, January 28 from 11am-12.30pm in the Robing Room of Cowbridge Town Hall.

Appointments are not necessary.

Beach clean
Barry-based environmental group Friends of Barry Beaches, will be holding a beach clean on Sunday, January 29 at Porthkerry Beach, meeting adjacent to the Forest Cafe at 3pm. All volunteers welcome.

Floral Society
THE Golden Jubilee year of the Barry Floral Society commences on Tuesday, January 31 with the annual general meeting.

Officers will be elected, the charity of the year chosen and names taken for the celebration lunch to be held on Wednesday, February 29 at Barry College.

The first demonstration of the year will be on February 14 when Sharon Dower of Swansea will pay her first visit to the club.

Meetings are held in the St Nicholas Hall, St Nicholas Road, Barry, commencing at 2.15pm. New members are always welcome.

Art society
COWBRIDGE Art Society's next meeting will be on February 2 at 7pm at the Old Hall, Cowbridge, when CAS member David Clough will lead a practical session in which members will demonstrate any painting or drawing techniques they find useful.

David's demo will be in acrylics, but members can bring whatever medium and materials they choose. Visitors welcome. For further details of the society see cowbridgeartsociety.com

History lecture
THE Cowbridge and District Local History Society's next lecture will be on Friday, February 3 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall of the Town Hall, Cowbridge.

There will be a talk on WW1 battles of Wood and Messines by Gavin Davies, which

replaces a talk by Professor Griffiths, who unfortunately is indisposed. All welcome.

Jumble sales
THE 1st Dinas Powys Scout group jumble sale 1.30pm on Saturday, February 4 at The Scout Hall, Highwalls Road, Dinas Powys. Admission 50p.

Palmerston Community Learning Centre, Barry, is encouraging people to reuse and recycle by holding a good old

fashioned jumble sale on Saturday, January 28 from 10.30am-1.30pm. Items on sale include clothes, shoes, books, toys, videos, household items and bric-a-brac.

There will be plenty of nearly new items to purchase along with refreshments and cakes. Proceeds to the centre creche.

Entry 20p; children admitted free. Donations of clean jumble welcome. For more information, call 01446 733762.

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READERS' LETTERS EXTRA

'Brynhill golf club members should think hard before they vote'

I recently attended the exhibition at Brynhill Golf Club in respect of the proposal to build 180 houses on the land.

What concerned me was the total ignorance on planning issues which undoubtedly would have to be overcome.

The Redrow official did not feel there would be any risk of

additional road congestion.

This was despite the fact they proposed to place a traffic light between the Brynhill junction and the nearby roundabout.

There was a total disregard of current and future planning policy. I was told the land was to be sold subject to planning permission.

Surely the club would be concerned if

planning permission was not obtained, particularly in view of members leaving the club and the subsequent loss of revenue?

I spoke to several members who stated they would not renew their membership if members voted for this proposal.

I also do not believe the club would attract new members, in view of the way they wish to portray themselves at

the present time.

The club must recognise their financial bloodline is retaining and attracting members.

The planning saga could go on for years to come, as seen in other locations close by. We all wish to promote the golf club's stability and success

for the benefit of the local community.

I fear this will be jeopardised if their own members support this proposal.

Golf members should think long and hard before making their very important decision. Name and address supplied

VOTING WITH DISCERNMENT

I FOUND Coun Richard Bertin's

response to a letter I wrote rather confusing, in that he seemed very quick in coming to the defence of members of the local New Labour group, a group he claims to have left, and is now standing as an independent.

In a way, it is better with the elections loom-

ing, that local people get the opportunity to clearly identify the colour and allegiance of candidates, before they award their vote to any individual.

It vindicates my plea for the electorate to use discrimination and discernment before voting, lest they be lumbered with something they did not expect or want!

Colin Wood, Barry.

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COFFEE MORNING

PORTHCAWL committee for Cancer Research UK is holding its annual coffee morning at the RAFA Club on February 10 at 11am. Stalls and raffle, coffee and biscuits, £1 admission.

On March 17, at the Hi-Tide, come along at 12pm, enjoy fish and chips for £7. All funds in the support of Cancer Research and to help the fight against cancer.

Lord Haw Haw's Barry address

REGARDING the article about Lord Haw Haw, is the author of the article certain that he lived in Newlands Street, Barry?

I was always led to believe he lodged at 49 Basset Street, which was at that time a corner shop/house with the front door in Crossways Street. My uncle (now deceased) who lived in

Basset Street three doors down from that house, was almost recruited into the Blackshirts until his father (my grandfather) laid down the law.

I live opposite this house and I have been reminded many times by old neighbours about the facts(?)

By the way, what was said about the town hall clock?

Mr B Kirke, Barry.

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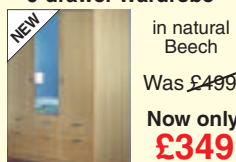
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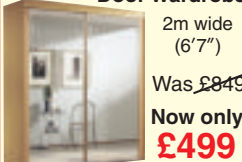


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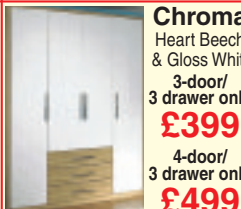


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The Vale honours the winners at glittering presentation of awards

THE ninth Vale of Glamorgan Council Building Control Group 'Building Excellence' awards were presented at Mount Sorrel Hotel, Barry, on January 20.

The prestigious occasion was attended by the Leader of the Vale Council, Coun Gordon Kemp, Coun Jeff James, cabinet member for planning and transportation, and the Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, Coun John Clifford.

Also present were the Building Control team, together with the sponsors of the event, Julie Bannon of the Best Western Mount Sorrel Hotel, Jan Irving of The Glamorgan GEM, Nina and Rob Chivers of Nina Estate Agents, Viv Hughes of ACD Skip Hire and John Lewis of JPL Sound.

The evening was hosted by Charles Hunter, team leader, and Marcus Goldsworthy, operational manager for the development and building control group at the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Mr Hunter commented: "The nominations in every category were of the very highest quality and the winners will all now have the chance to stand against the winners of other councils' awards in the 'South Wales Building Excellence' awards, which will be held at the Vale of Glamorgan Hotel and Spa Resort, Hensol on April 20.

"Hopefully, we will see some of them go forward to the ultimate achievement of the 'Building Excellence' award national finals, which will be held in London in November - where they will be up against nominations from most of the councils throughout England.

"The awards have shown the quality of work that is being undertaken throughout the Vale and we are proud to be rewarding and encouraging quality in the construction industry.

"Our thanks must go to the sponsors, who have enabled the event to be firmly placed in the annual diary".

In every category, there were commended entries. The award winners who will go forward to the South Wales event are as follows:

Category 1 - Extension/alteration to a dwelling: Town & Counties for the alteration and extension to 133, Plymouth Road, Penarth.

Category 2 - Home conversion/new dwellings: RT (Contractors) of Cowbridge for the new dwelling at Maes Melyn, Cowbridge.

Category 3 - Community/public buildings: Stepnell Limited of Warwickshire, for the new medical centre at Cowbridge.

Category 4 - Commercial: Swanbridge Developments for the new restaurant and offices (Pier 64), Penarth Marina.

Category 5 - Social housing: Mi-space for the new houses and apartments at Jacksons Quay, Barry Waterfront.



ABOVE: Jan Irving, of the Glamorgan GEM, presents the category 1 award to Town and Counties.



ABOVE: Julie Bannon, of the Best Western Mount Sorrel Hotel, presents the category 4 award to Swanbridge Developments - for its work at Penarth Marina.



ABOVE: Nina Chivers, of Nina Estate Agents, presents the category 2 award to RT (Contractors) of Cowbridge - for a new dwelling at Maes Melyn, Cowbridge.



Viv Hughes of ACD Skip Hire, presents the category 3 award to Stepnell Ltd.

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Highlighting Vale's 'quality design'



Commended in the home conversion/dwelling category was Mr C Millar. The award was presented by Nina Chivers, of Nina Estate Agents.



ABOVE: The sponsors of the event were thanked by the Vale's building control group for enabling the awards to become an annual event.



ABOVE: Gibbons Brothers were commended in the extensions/alterations category – Jan Irving, of The Glamorgan GEM newspaper, made the presentation to the company.



ABOVE: Councillor Jeff James made the presentation to Mi-Space (UK) Ltd, the winner for social and affordable housing at Jacksons Quay, Barry Waterfront.



ABOVE: Commended for work at Cadoxton House was Carter Lauren – Viv Hughes, of ACD Skip Hire, made the presentation.

• SEE MORE BUILDING AWARDS PICTURES ON PAGE 18.

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Vale's building excellence is recognised at presentations



LEFT: Nina Chivers, of Nina Estate Agents, presents the 'commended' award for home conversion to Jonathan David.



ABOVE: Coun Jeff James presents the 'commended' award for social and affordable housing to Newydd Housing Association Ltd.



ABOVE: Jan Irving of The Glamorgan GEM presents the 'commended' award for extensions/alterations to Lee Bennett.

The GEM is proud to be an official partner of the
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Celebrating Santes Dwynwen Day

LAST year, as part of the Eisteddfod's 150th anniversary, we appealed for Eisteddfod love stories, and once again this year, we want to hear from anyone with romantic memories about the Barry Eisteddfod, back in 1968.

Send us your memories, either by completing the online form in the Archive section of the website, or why not post your story on the Eisteddfod's facebook page? [General cleaning services](http://Generalcleaningservices)

We are looking to appoint a company to undertake cleaning services on the Eisteddfod Maes at Llandow, Vale of Glamorgan.

Companies should only tender if they have the means and commitment to contribute positively to the success of the festival.

A general guide to the services required are included in the full tender document

which can be downloaded from the business section of the website.

All completed tenders should be sent to alan@eisteddfod.org.uk by 5pm on Friday, February 11. Full details are in the tender document.

Performing on the Maes
Are you a member of a dance group, or do you know of any dancer who would enjoy performing at this year's Eisteddfod?

We are working on the programme for the Maes Pavilion, so now is the time to get in touch if you'd like

to perform during the week.

For more information or if you'd like to take part, email sioned@eisteddfod.org.uk or ring the office on 0845 4090 300.

I am also the contact for more information about Maes B's Battle of the Bands competition, which is to perform a set of original sets in any style. This year's competition will be held on the Performance Stage on the Maes at the start of the week, with the winning band performing at Maes B on Saturday night. The closing date is May 1.

SIONED

Cancer Talk Week

A NEW counselling service is being launched for local people whose relationships have been affected by a cancer diagnosis.

Macmillan Cancer Support, in partnership with Relate Cymru, is funding two more Macmillan Relate counsellors to provide help and support to people in the Vale, Cardiff and Rhondda Cynon Taf.

The announcement comes in Cancer Talk Week (January 23-29) which is encouraging people to talk about cancer.

Macmillan Cancer Support can help with those difficult conversations – call free on 0808 808 00 00 or visit www.macmillan.org.uk.

U3A talk on Arsenal

ON January 11, there was a talk on 'The Bridgend Arsenal' by Mike Clubb, and although some had heard the talk before at other venues, it remains a fascinating and well-presented talk which was well received by all.

On Wednesday, February 8, there will be a talk on 'The Rebuilding of St Teilo's Church at St Fagan's' by Sara Huws at 2pm in Cowbridge Rugby Club. All welcome.

Derek trekking back to Barry!

WEATHERMAN Derek Brockway is returning to his home town in the new series of 'Weatherman Walking' on BBC1 Wales.

Last year, the BBC asked Valeways for suggestions of a route in the local area and it was decided he would walk from Barry Dock on to the Waterfront and around Barry Island before crossing the Causeway and walking through the Marine Gardens and on to the Knap.

He then climbed up on to Bull Cliff, down to Porthkerry and along to Rhosne Point – meeting up on the way with Andy Hinton from the



BBC weatherman Derek Brockway with Andy Hinton during the filming of 'Weatherman Walking'.

Past Finders Walking Group and Rob Pritchard, a ranger in Porthkerry Park.

This coastal walk is part of the All Wales

Coastal Footpath which will be officially opened in May 2012 and should be a great boost for 'Walking Tourism' in the area. VW

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Food for Thought

A special meal for Valentine's Day – the pressure's on!

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VALENTINE'S
Tuesday, 14th February

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WHEN any couple decide to go out for a romantic meal together, they obviously want it to go well – but there is something extra special about Valentine's Day that puts the pressure on when it comes to selecting the venue.

There is something about the date – February 14 – that raises expectations of young (and not so young!) lovers.

It's the one night out when they want everything to be just right – with all the elements melding together to make for a perfect evening.

Take a step back to when it was all fresh and the romance was in its early stages and you can bet that neither of the smitten parties noticed the food that much.

However, as Dylan Thomas observed – "Time passes" – and suddenly Valentine's Day has the burden of recapturing that youthful magic.

It means that whichever partner has drawn the short straw of choosing the venue is going to agonise over things that wouldn't normally concern him (or her).

Is another table in the restaurant a little more intimate?

Is the ambience all that you had imagined?

Should we have gone somewhere more expensive? Or maybe somewhere cheaper?

It's easy to see at this point that one partner is at risk of spending the evening worrying that all is going well.

So here, entirely free of charge, is The GEM's tip for enjoying your Valentine's Day evening...

If you are the one who did not choose the venue, let your partner know it was a great choice, and that he/she is not responsible for every last detail.

After all, you are celebrating your relationship, not auditioning to be a restaurant critic!

PI

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Tuesday February 14th

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Welsh rarebit stuffed mushroom, smoked maple bacon on toast with Parmesan crisp

Main Course

 Curried monkfish with celeriac chips, lime and spicy tomato ketchup
Chicken schnitzel with pear and saffron chutney and crispy fennel
Roast lamb with butter-nut squash risotto and toasted walnuts
Pan fried ribeye with grilled Portobello mushrooms, tomato and tempura onion rings
(with fresh pepper or garlic sauce if you wish)
Inclusive potato choices unless stated
chunky chips, dauphinoise, silky mash, sautéed

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Council saves some of the 'fly grazing' horses... But others are still on the loose

by PHILIP IRWIN

HORSES dumped near Cardiff Airport are now in safe hands after the Vale Council launched a large-scale operation to remove and rehome more than 60 horses which were abandoned on its land.

The animals had been left to 'fly graze' near Cardiff Airport, Rhosce, leaving the Vale Council, as landowner, to foot the bill for their care and welfare.

After taking possession of them, under the Animals Act 1971, the council has rehomed the herd, with the help of horse charity Redwings.

Another 60 or so horses had been abandoned at Cosmeston Park, but these horses disappeared, presumably collected by the person who left them there in the first place.

Operational manager for countryside and economic projects, Bob Guy, said: "The horses were taken from Cosmeston, and damage was done to a fence.

"The Rhosce relocation cost the council around £17,000 to ensure the welfare of the horses, while they were on council land and their subsequent relocation, excluding officer time."

The Vale Council had taken legal action, again under the Animals Act 1971, at Cosmeston, but the horses were taken away just as the deadline expired.

The Norfolk-based charity helped round up the horses at Rhosce on Friday (January 13) and found them new homes at Redwings, Bransby Home of Rest for Horses in Lincolnshire and Horse World in Bristol, with transportation help provided by The Donkey Sanctuary in Devon.

Redwings took in 23 horses, 30 were taken in



ABOVE and BELOW: Some of the horses and ponies that are now safe in sanctuaries at Lincoln and Bristol.



by Bransby and 10 were rehomed at Horseworld. Of those at Horseworld, one animal was adopted by a member of staff, two remained at the sanctuary, and the remainder were sent on to the Blue Cross.

A spokeswoman said the welfare of the animals had been regularly reviewed by veterinary surgeons to ensure good welfare standards were maintained within the herd.

The spokeswoman added: "The activity of horse dumping or fly grazing will not be tolerated within the Vale.

"We will continue to protect animals, to ensure they receive the care they require and deserve."

The welfare officer at Bransby, Helen Whitelegg, said: "When the horses arrived, they were tired and feeling the effects of the travel.

"When I saw them on Saturday, half the herd were asleep. But their characters are starting to come out now.

"The whole group does three laps of their field every morning before breakfast."

However, local residents are now concerned that some or all of the Cosmeston horses may have been dumped in Lavernock, where there

have been reports of horses running loose on the road.

The Conservative Leader in the Assembly, Andrew RT Davies, who lives in the Vale, said: "For the third successive day, my office received reports from distressed constituents that horses are loose on public highways near Cosmeston lakes.

"Having spoken with staff at Cardiff Police Station, it seems that they too are being bombarded with calls from worried members of the public."

"In the immediate future, it is vital that prompt and decisive action is taken to deal with this matter, not least because of the danger that it presents to both road users and the animals themselves. This is a very serious matter."

On behalf of the Vale Council, Bob Guy said: "We do not know if the horses involved in recent highway issues are the same horses which were removed from Cosmeston."

Andrew RT Davies renewed his call for the Welsh Government to establish a stakeholder group to look at the wider issue of fly-grazing.

He said: "The discussions I have held with

animal welfare groups and constituents in recent days have highlighted perceived weaknesses in the current system of abandonment notices.

"These notices, when served, appear to enable the owners of horses that are being illegally grazed, the opportunity to periodically move the problem onto other sites - where the process merely starts again."

"At the very least, the Minister should investigate whether a need exists to draft new legislation at Assembly level, and that should be done in dialogue with other relevant groups and bodies."

One local resident told The GEM: "Apart from the sheer cruelty involved in abandoning these horses and trying to force someone else to take responsibility for them, none of the horses is microchipped, and they don't have a passport, yet no-one is arrested for flouting the law."

She added that police officers had been called out many times in the Lavernock area, because the horses were running loose on the road, and she had been told that an officer had been injured trying to bring one horse under control.

LOCAL YOUNG DRAMA GROUP PULLS OUT THE STOPS AT PANTO TIME!

PHOTOGRAPHS by HANNAH KENDALL

AUDIENCES at St Donats Arts Centre were highly impressed with a pantomime staged by young people from the Vale. (See report and pictures on facing page).



WELSH RUGBY PLAYERS BACK DAFFODIL APPEAL

WELSH rugby stars Jamie Roberts and Sam Warburton are helping to promote Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal 2012.

The charity is asking local people to give up just two hours of their time during February and March to help out with supermarket or street collections in south-east Wales.

The Great Daffodil Appeal makes it possible for Marie Curie nurses to carry on caring and making a difference to families coping with cancer, either in the patients' own home, or in the Marie Curie hospice at Penarth.

For more information contact the fundraising team on 02920 426068 or email Karen.jones@mariecurie.org.uk.



Welsh rugby stars Sam Warburton and Jamie Roberts.

Council signs 'timber pledge'

A scheme to stop the trading of illegally-logged and unsustainable timber has been set up by the Vale Council, after it signed up to the World Wildlife Fund's (WWF) Bronze Pledge on buying timber and wood products.

The charity has invited councils to sign a timber pledge as part of its 'What Would You Choose' campaign that champions the purchase

of legal and sustainable timber and wood products including paper, furniture, fencing and pallets.

Council leader Gordon Kemp said "We were more than happy to sign up to this pledge, as part of our commitment to working in partnership with others towards a more sustainable community and economy."

LOCAL YOUNG DRAMA GROUP PULLS OUT ALL THE STOPS AT PANTO TIME!



PHOTOGRAPHS by HANNAH KENDALL

A PANTOMIME featuring young people from the Vale, has been hailed as a great success after playing four shows at St Donats Arts Centre.

Stage Door 1's production of *Cinderella* wowed audiences with their adaptation of the most famous of all pantomimes.

A spokeswoman said: "Thanks to the cast of 40 local youngsters, ages five to 15, the energy and enthusiasm throughout the pantomime was excellent."

"The show featured bright and professional costumes, some provided by Jamima Bridal Shop in Llantwit."

"This was truly a fantastic community pantomime with record sell-out audiences of 800."

"A mix of modern and older songs were used with great choreography by Yegor Young a pupil at Llantwit Major Comprehensive School."

"Under the direction of Mike Peters and Alison Webster, the pantomime was full of laughter, fun and magic. We should all be proud of our talented youngsters."

Sharon, the general manager of St Donats Arts Centre, said: "A fantastic panto, yet again, from Stage Door 1."

"It was a sell out across all four shows, with amazing performances and brilliant audience participation."

"If you missed it this time, make sure you book early for next year. It was wonderful to see so many people having such a good time."

Stage Door 1 will be celebrating its fifth anniversary this year and has some exciting events planned. Anyone wishing to join Stage Door 1 in any capacity should contact mikepeters@stdonats.com for more information.





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ness needs around your life, work and family.

A LifeStyle membership is much more than just a gym membership – it also lets you use our swimming pools, Trixter and Easyline suites, the health suites, and gives you free access to a vast choice of fitness classes too (depending on your peak/off-peak membership).

To find out more, please call 01446 403000 or visit www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/leisurecentres.

Care company urges people to eat better

EATING healthily in later life could make more of a difference to our overall wellbeing than we might think, according to the care-at-home provider Bluebird Care.

The company, which supports disabled and elderly people in Cardiff and the Vale, sees the benefits that good diet has on the physical and mental health of the people it looks after.

"Eating well can boost immunity to illness and help the body repair itself," says Bluebird Care's managing director Huw Owen, a former nurse.

"It can improve mental health too – sharper minds, emotional balance and a positive outlook."

For some older people, mealtimes can be a challenge: "Many of the people we look after need help in shopping for food, cooking and in feeding themselves," says Owen.

"Interest in food often wanes as our senses of taste and smell become less acute later in life."

By understanding nutritional needs, we can make a difference to our own lives and to the lives of people we care about.

That's the message Bluebird Care is sending to communities based in Cardiff and the Vale.

"There's plenty of dietary information to be had. It's never too early – or too late – to change eating habits for the better," he added.



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A CLASS ACT!

Keep your New Year fitness push fully charged by taking part in a selection of new fitness classes at Barry Leisure Centre!

Join the Zumba party!

Get a Latin dance workout in the new Friday class between 5pm and 6pm. This class now takes the total number of Zumba classes at the Vale of Glamorgan's leisure centres to 13.

Try out 'Pool Circuits' for FREE

Take the plunge and test your fitness at the new 'Pool Circuits' class that will combine both land and water-based exercises. A FREE taster class is being held on Sunday 29 January, 4pm - 5pm.

Get pumped up and have a ball

Other new additions are the low impact 'Fitball' class that works your core muscles and more every Wednesday 1pm - 2pm, and the aerobic-based 'Pumpfit' class on Monday evenings 7pm - 8pm.

And there's even more! Across all of the leisure centres there are 24 different types of classes each week, including Trixter bikes, circuit training, boxfit, step aerobics, pilates and loads more. Please call 01446 403000 or visit our website for full details.



www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/leisurecentres

LIFESTYLE
HEALTH & FITNESS



Your chance to revamp or remodel that faltering new year resolution!

IT'S that time of January when many of us are struggling to keep the faith regarding our new year resolutions – which so often involve getting fitter – or at least improving our general health in some way.

So, this week's GEM feature on health and beauty is well timed, because it can give you a chance to jump back on the

wagon if you recently fell off! The pages are full of bright ideas for improving what the Government likes to call your sense of 'wellbeing' – whether that be physical, mental, or even spiritual. Take a look and, if you have faltered a little since those bright New Year resolutions, here's a chance to re-assess, re-adjust or re-affirm those promises to yourself!

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BEAUTY BASICS was opened on Broad Street Parade, Barry, in October 2011 by Rebecca Van Praag.

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Rhoose - 6.30pm
Celtic Way Community
Centre, Celtic Way
Helen - 01446 750738

Penarth
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Elfed Avenue Methodist
Church, Elfed Road
Sarah - 07525 852288

TUESDAY

Barry - 5.45pm
Market Street
Social Club
Upstairs Function Room
Joanne - 01446 404897

Barry - 4.30pm
St. David's Methodist
Church Hall,
Winston Road
Annmarie - 01446 736534

Llantwit Major
4.45 & 6.45pm
The Old School
Wine Street
Helen - 01446 750738

Sully - 6.30pm
The Old School
South Road
Niki - 01446 740394

WEDNESDAY

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Porth-y-Castell
Annmarie - 01446 736534

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Culverhouse Cross,
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Barry - 6.00pm
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Methodist Church
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Joanne - 01446 404897

Cowbridge - 6.00pm
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All Saints Church Hall
Victoria Square
Tracy - 07894 275853

Penarth
5.00pm & 7.00pm
All Saints Church Hall
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THURSDAY

Cowbridge - 10.00am
Cowbridge
Rugby Club
Diane - 02920 551206

Barry - 6.00pm
Highlight Park
Community Centre,
Barry
Nia - 07793 885581

Dinas Powys - 6.30pm
The Cabin by swimming
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Sarah - 07525852288

Barry - 10.15am
St Helen's Church Hall
Wyndham Street
Niki - 01446 740394

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Vegbox company, Riverford Organic, is encouraging the nation to rethink how they cook with meat.

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Above all, make the veg the star of the show. Using meat this way helps it go further, so it's a good strategy for those on a tighter budget.

Meat from animals that has been slowly reared on a natural diet often has much more flavour than its intensively-produced counterpart.

It makes sense that you won't need to use as much to make a tasty meal. Making sure the whole of the animal is

used is another part of the meat and ten veg philosophy.

With this in mind, Riverford Organic makes a point of selling less mainstream cuts such as brisket, pork belly and oxtail through their meatboxes.

Chris and Alison Moruzzi, who deliver meatboxes to families in mid and west Glamorgan, say it's really easy to get stuck in a routine of using the same quantity of meat in the same dishes.

However by replacing a third of the mince in spaghetti bolognese with a variety of tasty colourful veg, you still get a flavourful, satisfying meal.

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Court is a 'no-go' for cinema

THE former Vale Magistrates Court in Thompson Street, Barry, is unlikely to be a suitable venue to show big screen films, the chairman of the Save Our Cinema Association has said.

Mr Bob Armstrong explained that although some people had suggested a coalition of the cinema group and local arts groups could take over the site, the cost of purchasing the premises and then redeveloping it was likely to be too much.

He said that multiplex cinema companies liked purpose built facilities and independent companies favoured taking over a former cinema, reducing the need for costly alterations to a building.

"The Island appears to be the only place with potential in Barry," he said.

SOCA was formed four years ago, in the wake of the closure of the Theatre Royal, by people concerned that the largest town in Wales was without its own cinema.

(MORE ON THIS STORY NEXT WEEK)

Opening hours cut opposed

THE Vale MP has joined opposition to NatWest's decision to cut opening hours at its Dinas Powys branch.

Alun Cairns said he has spoken with Huw Jones, senior executive responsible for NatWest operations across Glamorgan, to raise his and local residents' opposition to the substantial reduction in hours at the branch - which also serves St Andrew's Major, Michaelston-le-Pit and the surrounding area.

Mr Cairns noted strong opposition by local residents and businesses to the new hours, which now mean the local branch will open only on Mondays and Fridays from 10am to 2pm from February 20.

Mr Cairns commented: "Though I'm disappointed that NatWest are substantially reducing their opening hours at the branch in Dinas Powys, I'm reassured that they will not close the branch at any point, as this goes against the bank's charter."

"The local CEO had stated that the bank would not reverse its decision, but confirmed that it would consider increasing the hours in the future, should demand dictate," he added.

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School is hoping to emulate Les Mis success with Fiddler



PHOTOGRAPHS by
MALCOLM NUGENT

PUPILS at Porthcawl Comprehensive School are hoping to follow up their success last year, when *Les Misérables* was greeted with wild applause from enthusiastic audiences, by staging *Fiddler on the Roof*.

The classic tale, inevitably associated with the song 'If I Were a Rich Man' is a fascinating mix of comedy, drama and social comment, and features a number of other high quality songs such as 'Sunrise, Sunset' and 'tradition'.

Many of last year's

cast are available and, for young Joe Wiltshire-Smith, who was such a hit last year as Jean Valjean, the role of Tevye (made famous by Topol) is a real change.

It does, however, give him a chance to show off his comic side – something that was not called for in *Les Mis*.

Some of the girls who impressed last year are back, with Catherine Walters playing Golde, Harmony Miller (Hodel) and Natasja Bryant as Chava.

Fiddler On the Roof runs from Wednesday, February 1 to Saturday, February 4, at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl. Tickets are available at the box office (01656 815995).

Rotarians' new Satellite Club

THE Rotary Club of Porthcawl is celebrating after being chosen to pilot a 'Satellite Club'.

A spokesman said: "We know that some people can't commit to regularly helping others, even though they would love to – perhaps due to work or family circumstances.

"The Porthcawl Rotary Satellite Club is intended to be a club within a club which will be able to operate more flexibly and be able to draw up its own calendar. In fact, it can be a club which suits your lifestyle!"

"It could meet on a day and time which suits each club member. It could have a different venue, multiple venues or even no venue – members meeting in their homes.

"It could set its own agenda for undertaking

one-off projects or on-going schemes which could make a difference in the local or world community.

"It will mean new horizons and friendships for all who join, so if you, your partner or friends would like to find out more about this exciting new initiative being taken by Rotary International, we have arranged a meeting at the Salthouse on the Square in Porthcawl at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, February 28 (please note the revised date)."

This will be an ideal opportunity to come and chat to us and find out more about who we are, what we do, and how you can make a difference to your local community.

For more information, please get in touch with Ken Roberts on 01656 721510.

Ivor Williams

Dyspraxia support

THE next meeting of the Vale Dyspraxia Support Group will be on Monday, February 5 at 7.30pm in the Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry.

The group supports children and young people with dyspraxia (as well as related conditions such as dyslexia, ADHD, Asperger's Syndrome, OCD, Tourettes) and their parents and carers by providing advice and information as well as an opportunity to exchange experiences.

It operates a 24hr help and advice line on 01446 738945; a website, www.vdsg.org.uk and also runs social activities and a laptop loan programme.



ABOVE: Getting to grips with Russian dancing.



ABOVE: Rehearsing a family dispute.

HECTIC WINTER FOR COWBRIDGE CADETS

DESPITE winter's arrival, the cadets of No 293 (Cowbridge) Squadron, Air Training Corps, have maintained a hectic schedule.

The squadron celebrated Christmas with a dinner and, through the hard work of the civilian committee, revived the tradition of hosting a carol service, this year at the Church of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in St Mary Church.

Exams in air navigation and propulsion were passed by all those who sat them, with Sergeant Tom Page and Corporals Dafydd Brown and Pat Croysdale achieving distinction passes. Sgt Page has now completed the training syllabus and has gained the classification of Master Cadet.

The others are currently studying aircraft handling, operational flying and airframes.

Away from the squadron headquarters, members continue to excel. Cadet Warrant Officer Charlotte Chatfield was selected as the Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for Mid Glamorgan.

Cadet Warrant Officer Matthew Whiteley continues to travel to different training areas across the UK to attend the cadet forces' Junior Leader's Course, and this summer he will travel even farther afield as he has just been selected as No 3 Welsh Wing's male representative on the International Air Cadet Exchange.

Sgt Tom Page and Cpl Dafydd Brown are currently training in the area around Pembrey in Carmarthenshire with the No 3 Welsh Wing road marching team in preparation for the Nijmegen Marches in The Netherlands. Those selected to make the trip will complete an arduous 100 mile march in just four days with 40,000 participants from around the world. At present, their training is focused on increasing their endurance at marching speeds of up to 4mph.

The squadron has also welcomed a new batch of cadets; Ieuan Norris and Warren Ryland have already attended 634 VGS at MoD St Athan for the first



Cpl Dafydd Brown at the wheel of a British Army Jackal.

phase of their Gliding Induction Courses.

Ieuan was also able to join in on a visit to the ranges at Castle Martin, where cadets from Cowbridge and Neath were given a tour of the Army's training facilities, shown a range of equipment and a demonstration of some of the army's newest mine-resistant vehicles, including the Mastiff, Jackal and Coyote.

As luck would have it, a pair of Apache helicopters also flew in that afternoon, allowing the cadets to see the world's premier gunship in flight.

In the coming weeks, squadron members will take part in Wing rugby trials, compete in the Wing's annual orienteering competition in the Afan Argoed Forest and visit St Athan again for Air Experience Flying with No 1 AEF.

In February, cadets and staff hope to complete a sponsored hike up Pen y Fan in the Brecon Beacons.

Squadron staff, led by Officer Cadet Rhys Thomas, are currently creating a programme for an Easter camp at RAF Pembrey Sands.

If you know someone between the ages of 13 and 17 who might be interested in joining the ATC and taking part in the wide range of activities on offer, please contact the squadron at adj.293@aircadets.org. Alternatively, visit the squadron, just off Aberthryn Road in Cowbridge, on Mondays or Thursdays.

GHOSTLY TALES

Legendary folk tales of Llanharan – the 'ghost town'

THE community of Llanharan lies in the border of the Vale between Llanharry and Brynna.

It has changed considerably over the years, but still holds some memorable landmarks which display some of its original agricultural buildings.

Many features are now a distant memory – such as the dairy, cinema, police station, undertakers, two billiard halls, a library, bakery, bank, garage and coal merchant.

Some of them I remember as a child, particularly the appealing shops and the bakery, which sold mouthwatering bread and cakes. It was run by the Richardson family.

The shops all ceased to trade one by one, and Llanharan was labelled the 'ghost town' during 1970s.

The Grade II listed Llanharan House sits proudly on the hill overlooking Llanharan village. Built in 1750 by Rees Powell it remained within his family until 1795 when Richard Hoare Jenkins purchased the property, and launched the Llanharan fox hunt by 1805.

After his death in 1856, the estate was taken over by Colonel John Blandy-Jenkins and remained in his family until 1953.

The Welsh spaniel dogs are thought to have been originally bred here, another legend concerning Llanharan's history.

Nicknamed the Llanharan spaniel, its image was adopted as the logo for Llanharan Rugby Club, which formed in 1891.

Rugby union was originally played on the pitch

called 'The Dairyfield', but has now been moved to the plot where the British Legion Club once stood.

Llanharan square is a rewarding sight with some charming historical buildings, including the ancient public house, which was built around 1700 and served as a chapel during the era when going to church was deemed a necessity.

During the 1880s, the village became associated with coal mining at the Powell Duffryn Company (PDs), which was part of the Meirion Colliery, now just a distant memory.

A small railway station was opened in 1850 to accommodate steam trains, allowing travel to more distant shores for residents.

My mother, Gaynor Stallard (who sadly passed away before her time in 2008), remembered the excitement felt by children from local Sunday schools who enjoyed travelling on the train to Porthcawl for their annual day trip.

Sadly, Dr Richard Beeching closed many railways throughout the United Kingdom in 1964, and Llanharan station became deserted until December 2007, when it was reopened for the public to enjoy travelling by rail once more.

Legendary folk tales are still rife throughout the village, although some have now been buried in history.

The Brenin Llwyd, or Grey Monarch of the mists, was a typical tale from the depths of time.

He is said to live among the hills and prey on innocent ramblers by drawing them into his curse of bewilderment.

Llanharan house stands eerily in the darkness, and the legend of

three witches prowling the hills around it has been the subject of scandal since ancient times.

It is not known who they were, or if they actually existed, but could they still be lurking on the hilltop hoping to cast their spell on new victims from a modern world beyond their grasp?

The spectral figure of a dark-haired man has been identified standing on the corner in the square, evidently pointing towards the church on the hill.

Who could this gentleman be, and why would he want to linger around a place that he would no longer recognise?

The spine-chilling echo of a stagecoach travelling at pace has been heard, tearing down old Llanharan lane at dusk, forcing bystanders to violently jump from its path, only to discover that nothing of this nature is travelling through.

Could this frightful noise be a hurried reenactment from a bygone era when horse and carriage was the only means of transport?

As a child, I was once an innocent victim to this strange occurrence.

But fact or fiction? Only you can decide...

HAYLEY WILLIAMS
(hayley.williams5@btinternet.com – telephone: 07813 506044)

I am interested in any stories (WWII, festival, etc) about places throughout the Vale of Glamorgan (Barry, St Brides, Llantwit Major etc) and would be delighted if anyone could contact me. I would love to hear from you.

News from 2nd Llantwit Major Boys' Brigade



ABOVE: The Llantwit Masterteam representatives.

A TEAM of four boys from Llantwit Major Boys' Brigade took part in the second round of the BB National Masterteam Competition at Bovey Tracey, Devon, and came fifth.

Unfortunately, this means they will not make the next round, but the boys did themselves proud.

Well done to Sam Pickford, DJ

Jones, Tal Brown and Dylan Johnston. Better luck next year, lads!

A team took part in the junior five-a-side competition in Swansea. It is the first time the company has entered this event for many years and the boys were placed fourth overall.

Special praise must go to Ewan Heywood and Luke Thomas who played extremely well.

DC

PILOT SCHEME WILL HELP VULNERABLE WOMEN FEEL SAFER IN THEIR HOMES

VULNERABLE women in the Vale will, hopefully, feel safer thanks to a new initiative securing victims' homes – after the Vale Council launched a one-year pilot scheme to help domestic abuse victims remain in their own homes.

The *'Target Hardening to the Homes of Victims of Domestic Abuse'* report stated that domestic abuse affects one in four women during their lifetime and, on average, two women each week are killed by a male partner or a former partner.

In addition, during 2001 in Wales and England, the estimated cost of domestic abuse to the public purse was £23 billion.

The pilot initiative involves installing security equipment, such as locks, door chains, mailsafe letterboxes, alarms and CCTV cameras to victims' homes, allowing them to stay in their own homes, rather than having to flee to a shelter.

Pam Toms, the strategy and supporting people manager at the Vale Council, explained: "The equipment is effective, as it prevents the perpetrator from gaining access to the home to cause harm and distress to the victims and/or children.

"CCTV equipment can also capture evidence of the perpetrator's actions, enabling further action by the police and/or Crown Prosecution Service.

"Installing such equipment prevents the need for the victims to move from house-to-house to escape the perpetrator. Also, we work in partnership with the police and other agencies to ensure that risk is managed and information is shared appropriately –

so that the victims get the help they need, when they need it."

The council cabinet agreed in December to pilot the 'Sanctuary Scheme'. It is allocating £15,000 to the pilot and the charitable organisation that will be carrying out the security work will be contributing an additional £5,000 – making it £20,000 in total.

Vale AM Jane Hutt was involved in setting up a network of Women's Aid refuges and became co-ordinator of Welsh Women's Aid in the 1980s, with support from the Welsh Office. She is a strong supporter of the local Atal y Fro Women's Aid group, which "provides excellent services in the Vale of Glamorgan".

She told The GEM: "Although we have refuges, support services and legislation to tackle domestic violence, it is still prevalent in Wales. Between April 2010 and March 2011 Welsh Women's Aid reported that 1,716 women and 1,421 children were accommodated in refuges in Wales.

"I am very concerned that the closure of Barry Magistrates Court included the closure of the Domestic Abuse Court which was efficient and effective in dealing with cases in the Vale.

"This has weakened the action we can take locally in partnership with the police, Crown Prosecution Service, the local authority and Atal y Fro."

In recent years, there has been an increase of people becoming homeless because of domestic violence, and the shelters are sometimes full. Atal y Fro, an organisation dedicated to the elimination of domestic abuse, has a refuge in the Vale.

Kay Quinn, the director of Atal y Fro said: "When our refuge is occupied we always manage

Report by Kaisa Pankakoski

to find somewhere for the woman (and children) to stay. We have access to refuge space all across Wales and England. We will always try to look to secure a safe space nearby for the woman and her family, if appropriate.

"The new initiative from the Vale Council is fantastic, because it will help the victims stay in their own homes. We haven't had the money for these safety measures for more than a year. Sometimes all you need is some kind of alarm or in-house security to make the house safe. We know the money will be spent the best way possible.

"We provide a unique early intervention programme for the whole family, to help them stay safely together or separate amicably. Quite often, when a couple separates, one party is stalked or bullied. We look at key issues with the family and provide a range of services that include what it involves to be a good parent, healthy relationships, and anger management.

"Our organisation also provides individual support for those who suffer from domestic violence and we believe that it will, together with the new initiative, help the victims feel safe in their own homes."

The council spent nearly £250,000 in a year placing people, including victims of domestic violence in temporary accommodation such as bed and breakfast accommodation.

However, many of the victims accommodated indicated that they would prefer to remain in their own home, near their support networks – if only

they could feel safer – as a move is not only disruptive for them, but also to their children. Very often, they have to change schools and leave their friends and extended family behind.

Therefore, while this pilot scheme is predominantly to assist victims and their families to remain safe at home, it is also hoped that it will reduce the "bed blocking" in the local refuge, and result in a reduction in the use by the council of temporary accommodation.

Funding home security initiatives in the Vale will result in an overall saving to the public purse.

Vale domestic abuse co-ordinator, Charlotte Porter, said that domestic abuse can happen to anybody of any age, race, culture, gender and sexual orientation.

She explained: "Domestic abuse can take the form of physical violence, emotional abuse, financial and sexual abuse. Domestic abuse does happen within intimate partner relationships; however, members of the wider family, offspring, siblings or someone living in the same household, can become a victim of abuse or a perpetrator. There are also cases where there has been considerable harm to pets.

"In intimate partner relationships, statistics show that approximately 97 per cent of domestic abuse incidents are perpetrated by men against women. Evidence shows that two women each week are killed by a current or former partner and women are at greatest risk of homicide at the point of separation, or after leaving a violent partner.

"There are many long-term effects associated with domestic abuse, including mental health problems, long-term health complications, poverty, homelessness and suicide. Children are often so traumatised by the abuse they are often blighted by complications throughout their lives.

"Children who witness domestic abuse are more likely to become victims or abusers themselves. Victims may become very isolated and find it difficult to get help, especially if they have returned to the relationship several times.

It is important that people seek help as soon as they feel worried that something "isn't right" within the relationship. Many organisations will also offer advice to concerned family and friends."

Jane Hutt added: "Resources for Women's Support services, strong legislation resulting in priority attention in the criminal justice system and education at all levels of the need to promote safe and equal relationships, must be taken forward to continue to tackle domestic violence."

The scheme will start as soon as the Service Level Agreement has been finalised and agreed with the charitable organisation that will be securing homes on behalf of the council.

The GEM spoke to a woman in the Vale about her experiences and asked her what she thought about the Vale Council initiative.

When Claire (not her real name), 32, started dating her fiancé seven years ago, she thought he was the most charming and wonderful man she had ever met. He was ambitious and played rugby. He made her laugh.

She was soon to realise her 'Mr Right' was not that perfect after all. Claire recalled: "He was actually in a relationship when we got together and he didn't introduce me to his friends or family for a good few years. I wish the alarm bells had rung then, but I was in love. We had lots of arguments; he cheated on me and called me names.

"He would say really horrible things – he said I was ugly and fat – and my self-confidence plummeted. I was writing a dissertation for a Master's degree and he would come in and shout that I was stupid and useless."

A few years down the line, he moved into Claire's house and she found out she was pregnant. He demanded that she had an abortion. She explained: "I decided to keep the baby, but it was a very difficult pregnancy and I had to spend a third of it in hospital. My fiancé only visited me if I begged him to. After the birth, he said he would leave us and never have contact with his son, unless we gave him the name he had chosen."

Claire's been in touch with a shelter, but never had the courage to leave. She said: "It is my house, after all and he's only violent when he was very drunk. Most of the abuse is emotional and I feel that going to a shelter would be a bit dramatic."

Claire's fiancé has now decided to leave her and is planning to move out of her house. Having recently lost her job, she will struggle to pay the mortgage on her own and will probably have to move in with her parents.

Claire said: "He threatens that I will not have the custody of our son because I am a bad mother. He has never even spent an entire day with him on his own, but I am still frightened he will take my son away from me."

What does she think of about the Vale Council initiative? "In principle, I feel that the new initiative will make the victims of domestic violence feel safer. However, if they feared that they might be attacked, in my opinion emotional and psychological support would be crucial.

"That would give the victims the strength to go to court or apply for a restraining order, so that they could stay in their own home and know that the law is on their side."

The Wales Domestic Abuse Helpline is 0808 80 10 800 or you can contact Atal-y-Fro on 01446 744755. For more information about the Safer Vale Partnership and Atal-y-Fro, visit:

www.safervale.co.uk and www.atalyfro.org

Gellir cael copi o'r Hysbysiad hwn mewn print bras gan Lywodraeth Cymru, Trafnidiaeth, Parc Cathays, Caerdydd CF10 3NQ.

Deddf Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref 1990 Gorchymyn Cau Prifffyrdd (Hill Head, Llanilltud Fawr, Bro Morgannwg) 2012

HYSBYSIR DRWY HYN fod Gweinidogion Cymru wedi gwneud Gorchymyn o dan Adran 247 o Ddeddf Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref 1990 yn awdurdodi cau'r rhan o briffordd a ddisgrifir yn Atodlen 1 i'r Hysbysiad hwn.

Os gwneir y Gorchymyn, nid awdurdodir cau'r briffordd ond er mwyn galluogi'r datblygiad a ddisgrifir yn Atodlen 2 i'r hysbysiad hwn i gael ei wneud. Bydd effaith y Gorchymyn yn peidio os daw'r caniatâd cynllunio i ben neu os caiff ei ddiryu.

Yn ystod y 6 wythnos ar ôl 26 Ionawr 2012, gellir archwilio copïau o'r Gorchymyn a'r plan a adnewydd yn rhad ac am ddim yn swyddfeydd Cyngor Tref Llanilltud Fawr, Neuadd y Dref, Llanilltud Fawr CF61 1SD yn ystod yr oriau agor arferol neu gellir eu cael yn rhad ac am ddim o'r cyfeiriad isod.

Os bydd unrhyw berson yn dymuno herio dilysrwydd y Gorchymyn, neu ddilysrwydd unrhyw ddarpariaeth sydd ynddo, ar y sail:

- nad yw o fewn pwerau Deddf Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref 1990, neu
- y rhagfarnwyd yn sylweddol yn erbyn ei fuddiannau gan fethiant i gydymffurfio ag unrhyw un neu rai o ofnyion y Ddeddf,

caiff y person hwnnw, o fewn 6 wythnos i 26 Ionawr 2012, wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys am atal neu ddiddymu'r Gorchymyn neu unrhyw ddarpariaeth a gynhwysir ynddo.

Gellir gweld copi o'r Gorchymyn a'r Hysbysiad yn <http://wales.gov.uk/?skip=1&lang=cy> (Detholer: 'Deddfwriaeth', 'Is-ddeddfwriaeth', 'Offerynnau Anstatudol', 'Trafnidiaeth, Cymru', 'Deddf Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref: Gorchymynion Cau', '2012').

M D BURNELL
Trafnidiaeth
Llywodraeth Cymru

Atodlen 1

(Bras amcan yw pob mesuriad)

Disgrifiad o'r rhan o briffordd sydd i'w chau o dan y Gorchymyn hwn.

Rhan o briffordd afreolaidd ei siâp sy'n gyfagos i 1 Hill Head, Llanilltud Fawr, Bro Morgannwg, y mae ei hyd uchaf yn 6 metr a'i lled uchaf yn 2 fetr, y mae cyfanswm ei harwynebedd yn 7 metr sgwâr, ac sy'n rhan o'r droetffordd a'r llain ymyl a ddangosir â llinellau sebra ar y plan a adnewydd.

Atodlen 2

Y Datblygiad Arfaethedig.

Y wal gynnal, y llwybr a'r risffordd allanol arfaethedig yn 1 Hill Head, Llanilltud Fawr, yn unol â chaniatâd cynllunio a roddwyd gan Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Bro Morgannwg o dan Rhan III o Ddeddf 1990, ar 8 Gorffennaf 2011 o dan gyfeirnod 2011/00475/FUL.

A copy of this Notice in larger print can be obtained from Welsh Government, Transport, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NQ.

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 The Stopping Up of Highways (Hill Head, Llantwit Major, Vale of Glamorgan) Order 2012

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Welsh Ministers have made an Order under section 247 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to authorise the stopping up of the area of highway described in Schedule 1 to this Notice.

The stopping up will be authorised only in order to enable the development described in Schedule 2 to this notice to be carried out. The Order will cease to have effect if the planning permission expires or is revoked.

During the 6 weeks from 26 January 2012, copies of the Order and the deposited plan may be inspected free of charge at the offices of Llantwit Major Town Council, Town Hall, Llantwit Major CF61 1SF during normal opening hours or may be obtained free of charge from the address below.

If any person desires to question the validity of the Order, or of any of the provisions contained therein, on the grounds:

- that it is not within the powers of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990; or
- that their interests have been substantially prejudiced by a failure to comply with any of the requirements of the Act,

that person may, within 6 weeks of 26 January 2012 apply to the High Court for the suspension or quashing of the Order or of any provision contained therein.

A copy of the Order and Notice can be viewed at <http://wales.gov.uk/?lang=en> (Select 'Legislation', 'Subordinate legislation', 'Non-Statutory Instruments', 'Transport, Wales', 'TCPA Stopping Up Orders', '2012').

M D BURNELL
Transport
Welsh Government

Schedule 1

(All measurements are approximate)

Description of the area of highway to be stopped up under this Order.

An irregularly shaped area of highway adjacent to 1 Hill Head, Llantwit Major, Vale of Glamorgan, measuring a maximum of 6 metres in length by a maximum of 2 metres in width, with a total area of 7 square metres, forming part of the footway and verge shown in zebra hatching on the deposited plan.

Schedule 2

Proposed Development.

Proposed retaining wall, pathway and external stairway at 1 Hill Head, Llantwit Major, in accordance with planning permission granted by the Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council under Part III of the Act of 1990, on 8 July 2011 under reference 2011/00475/FUL.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

www.cymru.gov.uk

CRICC too strong for Cowbridge under-9s

ON Sunday, Cowbridge under-9s met CRICC at the Police Station field.

The opposition turned out to be one of the best young teams that the boys have met and throughout the two games played quicker in thought and deed.

Game 1

The first game started with lengthy Cowbridge possession but the ball was turned over and CRICC scored their first try.

Jay, worthy of mention throughout, responded though after a decent period of possession and passing.

Subsequently, however, efforts to keep the ball alive invariably ended with the ball being dropped and CRICC scoring tries from turnover possession.

The second half was much as the first and though Ellis Howell did score one try there was no turning the CRICC tide.

Game 2

In the second game, again Cowbridge commenced with lengthy possession but were frustrated by excellent defence from CRICC.

Cowbridge were in possession for the first

few minutes but failed to score.

Following this initial period and retrieving possession on a number of occasions, CRICC scored three tries before half-time.

It might be that the present training facilities which are not suitable for tackling practice played a part but again CRICC, who were always on the front foot, dominated the second period scoring further tries.

The game ended on a high note with Rhys getting over the line but these performances will have left the coaches with much food for thought.

Special mention to Ioan Davies, Jack Reilly and Dewi Williams for their efforts during the games.

Squad: Iwan-Thomas Bartle, Ioan Davies, Jay Downes, Gruff Ford, Elis Greenwood, David Harris, Robbie Hawkins, Ellis Howell, Oliver Jarmain, Aled Leitch, Charlie Locke, Joe Marshman, McKinley Parsons, Tom Pugh, Jack Reilly, Harry Whittaker, Dewi Williams, Jake Williams and Rhys Williams.

JS

COWBRIDGE UNDER-13S JUST LOSE OUT

A game played in heavy conditions surprisingly produced a fast and open game with Cowbridge under-13s and Mountain Ash under-13s playing entertaining rugby.

Cowbridge were outscored by two tries to one despite having far more chances than their opponents.

Mountain Ash scored under the posts, the try being converted.

A good break by scrum half Osian John gained fifteen metres before he off-loaded to centre Rhys Beynon, who was brought down just short of the line.

A few minutes later Cowbridge scored when wing Joe Nott charged

his way through five or six defenders before passing to fly half Cai Evans.

He then threw a long pass for Harrison Steven to release Sean Davies on a thirty yard dash to the line. The try was unconverted and at half time Mountain Ash led by seven points to five.

The second half was dominated by Cowbridge, but despite coming close to scoring on a number of occasions they were unable to cross their opponents' line.

With just a few minutes remaining Mountain Ash finally broke the resistance of Cowbridge to score their second try which went unconverted, for a final score of 12-5.

Outstanding in the pack were second row Otto Guwy, Matthew Keating and Charlie Martin.

ML

Bombers edged

BARRY under-7s took to the field for the second time in eight days to welcome Llantwit Major on a windy Sunday morning.

Game one saw both teams start at a great pace and score with their first touches of the ball.

The scoreline stayed tight for the rest of the first half as the teams exchanged tries and went in at half time with five tries each.

The scoring continued in the second half with the pick of the Barry tries being a team effort that was finished off by Malachy McIntyre.

Llantwit however narrowly won the game with a last gasp try after Barry's Matthew Pugh was unlucky not to be awarded a try leaving the Bombers disappointed and deserving more.

CP

Lougher celebrates another Lads victory

RICHARD Lougher continued his winning streak by bagging over 11lb of fish at the January 15 meeting of the Seaview Lads, almost twice the weight of second placed Steve Doble. He did, though, win the nominated species pool with a small conger.

At our recent AGM a few rules were amended. As so many of us are getting ancient, the free membership for 25 years of service will cease.

Boat eligibility has also changed, and anyone planning to fish this year

should check the latest rules online to see if their boat is eligible.

Dates and venues are being agreed for this year's social calendar that will include a mystery coach trip! Details of future competitions and other information is also held on our website; if you would like to join us log on for details of how to apply.

Results, January 15: First, Lucky Lougher, 11lb 11.75oz; second, Diabolo, 6lb 5oz; third, Colesy, 3lb 12oz; fourth, Jody, 3lb 10oz; fifth, Kersey, 2lb 6oz; sixth, Aida, 1lb 10oz; Nominated fish, Diabolo, conger.

Who wants to build what, and where?

Mr Stephen - 11 Church Meadow, Llantwit Major - Walk in bay/extension to side of front lounge (extended).

Mr Tony Jones - Land at Maverick Stables, Argae Lane, Dinas Powys - Retention of existing menage, removal of static caravan and construction of new tack room and amenity room. Representative Body of the Church in Wales - The Gatehouse, Llantwit Major - Minor repairs to the exterior of the building. Car parking spaces to be introduced. Conversion of the first floor to an office/artist's studio.

Mr Michael Furnham - 6 Maes Y Fynnon, Bonvilston - Two storey side extension.

Mr Michael Howells - The Gables, Sandy Lane, Ystradowen - Erection of small two storey side extension.

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- Views across Bristol Channel

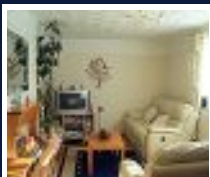
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- Gas central heating & double glazed
- 2 reception rooms
- Far reaching views over Bristol Channel
- Offered with vacant possession & no chain

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BUTTRILLS ROAD, BARRY

- A generously sized 2 double bedroom ground floor flat
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Communal front & rear gardens
- Viewing highly recommended
- No ongoing chain

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JEWEL STREET, BARRY

- 3 bedroom bay fronted mid terrace property
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- 2 reception rooms
- Good sized rear garden
- Offered with vacant possession & no chain

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WINSTON ROAD, BARRY

- 3 bedroom semi detached property in popular location
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Driveway to front
- Front & rear gardens
- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain

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Family Notices

COUPE
Michael Peter

Peacefully at home on January 20th after a long
 illness fought with strength and dignity.
 Mike, beloved husband of Hilary and loving father of
 Simon and Martin. Brother to Kai, a much loved Gruncle
 to Oliver, Alexander, Laila, Kitty, Toby and Jasmine.
 Mike will be greatly missed by all
 who loved and knew him.
 Resting at Park Independent Funeral Directors,
 7 Tynewydd Road, Barry until his service at Vale of
 Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry on
 Friday 27th January at 1.30pm.
 Family flowers only. Donations may be made during the
 service to Cancer Research Wales. Alternatively friends
 are invited to plant a tree in memory of Mike at a
 location of their choice.
 Funeral arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay J Ellis
 at Park Funerals 01446 421212.

Birthday Wishes

Jane Sweeney
Happy 49th + 1 Birthday
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 Gerry, Lauren,
 Cameron and
 Mum & Dad.
 X X X

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Public Notice

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995

NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for
 planning permission for the undermentioned developments:
 HYSBYSIR trwy hyn i geisiadau gael eu gwneud i'r Cyngor am ganiatâd
 cynllunio ar gyfer y datblygiadau canlynol:

Development that may affect a Conservation Area / Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/
 Rhif y cais: 2012/00007/FUL
 Proposal/Cynnig: Minor repair works to the exterior of the building. Car
 parking spaces to be introduced. Conversion of the first
 floor to an office / artist's studio.
 The Gatehouse, Llantwit Major

Location/Lleoliad:
 Conservation Area/
 Ardal Gadwraeth Llantwit Major

Conservation Area Consent / Caniatâd Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/
 Rhif y cais: 2011/01228/CAC
 Proposal/Cynnig: Demolition of three Dutch barns together with a stable
 block and the conversion of detached farm outbuildings
 to four domestic dwellings.
 Llancadle Farm, Llancadle, Barry

Location/Lleoliad:
 Conservation Area/
 Ardal Gadwraeth Llancadle

Application No:/
 Rhif y cais: 2012/00035/CAC
 Proposal/Cynnig: Demolition of rear wall of the site for vehicular access
 from Melbourne Close Lane
 Kumalo House, 69, Eastgate, Cowbridge

Location/Lleoliad:
 Conservation Area/
 Ardal Gadwraeth Cowbridge

Listed Building Consent / Caniatâd Adeilad Rhedredig

Application No:/
 Rhif y cais: 2012/00003/LBC
 Proposal/Cynnig: New two storey extension to rear (north) side of existing
 house (on site of existing Garage and Sitting Room).
 Works to include the demolition of the existing modern
 flat roof single storey Garage and Sitting Room.
 The Lodge, Dirmlands Road, Llantwit Major

Location/Lleoliad:
 Listed Building/
 Adeilad Rhedredig Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest / Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/
 Rhif y cais: 2012/00016/FUL
 Proposal/Cynnig: Continued implementation of planning permission
 2009/00817/FUL without compliance with Condition No. 1
 for retention of Recycled Aggregate Facility
 Wenvoe Quarry, Cardiff

Location/Lleoliad:
 Wenvoe Quarry, Cardiff

May affect a Public Right of Way / Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/
 Rhif y cais: 2012/00027/OUT
 Proposal/Cynnig: The construction of a two storey dwelling on land owned
 by Evenlode Primary School adjacent to Robinswood
 Crescent
 Evenlode Primary School, Evenlode Avenue, Penarth

Location/Lleoliad:
 Evenlode Primary School, Evenlode Avenue, Penarth

Departure from Development Plan / Gwro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/
 Rhif y cais: 2011/01270/FUL
 Proposal/Cynnig: Replacement car park (plus additional AMHU spaces),
 landscaping, access, and enabling works,
 University Hospital, Llandough, Penlan Road, Penarth

Location/Lleoliad:
 University Hospital, Llandough, Penlan Road, Penarth

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via
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Dated / Dyddiedig: 26 January, 2012

Rob Thomas
 Head of Planning, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

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COMPREHENSIVE MARCH ON TO VALE RUGBY FINALS!

THE Cowbridge Comprehensive School year-10 rugby team marched into the Vale finals with an emphatic 50-0 win over Barry.

With a number of regular players unavailable for selection, Cowbridge fielded an inexperienced side including new cap Gabe Shires.

With Joe Gaughan leading as captain, the Cowbridge pack dominated the early encounters and scrum half Adam Dix was able to deliver good service to Alex Gaurd and the rest of the backline.

Centre Daniel Evans was once again looking sharp and Jack Whitaker on the wing made some telling breaks. On the other wing, Llwyd Elms made a few breaks but was ushered into touch on most occasions.

Dan Holder, Matt Lock, Thomas Higgins, Marc Herbert, Matt Howells and Sam Richards also put in good performances, and Joe Gaughan is really starting to develop in his new tighter role in the pack.

This was another good performance from year-10, who have so far scored over 300 points this season and conceded

none.

There will be tougher games to come, but with around 20 turning up regularly for training this team will continue to go from strength to strength. NT

Year-7s reach Cup final

THE year-7 rugby team played against Barry Comprehensive School in the semi-final of the Vale Cup.

Having finished top of the league undefeated, and having beaten Barry in the league, the school's opponents were out for revenge.

Cowbridge meant business straight from the start, and scored a try from a well-worked backs move, finished off expertly by the pace of Rhidian Williams.

After this, Cowbridge continued to press hard, and a number of tries were scored. At half-time the score was 46-0, and whenever Cowbridge were in possession they looked dangerous.

During half-time a number of changes were made. This did not change the dynamics of the team in the slightest,

and the second half started in exactly the same way that the first half had finished.

The forwards were running hard and maintaining possession, and the backs were continuously breaking their opponent's defensive line, interlinking with one another.

Tries were scored by Rhidian Williams, Morgan Gore, James Large, Jake Griffiths, Ellis Simons, Rhys Bradshaw, two from Bevan Howell and Max Cunnington grabbed a hat-trick. Morgan also added three conversions and Bevan added six.

Well done boys!

Players of the match: Rhys Bradshaw, Rhys Durlucia, Bevan Howells, Max Cunnington.

SD

Cowbridge edge out Stanwell

THE year-8 Cowbridge football team played against Stanwell Comprehensive School in the semi-final of the Cardiff and Vale Cup.

With both teams coming through their respective quarter-finals via penalties it was destined for a close game, and this is exactly what it was.

Both teams started the game well and battled valiantly against the poor weather conditions. Cowbridge, who had the majority of possession in the first 20 minutes, just couldn't break down the defence, and whenever a shot was about to be taken, Stanwell's defenders just got there in time to block.

David Bear and Josh Peterson were darting inbetween the defenders, but their efforts would not hit the back of the net.

Aaron Griffiths played a lovely through ball into the path of Jay Munn, but the move was stopped with an excellent sliding tackle from a Stanwell defender.

Towards the end of the half Stanwell had a couple of attacks, but Duncan Ace, Tom Williams and Ben John were always organised and ready to remove any threats on goal. At the end of the half the scores were 0-0.

In the second half, Stanwell started the brighter and the tables had turned. After 10 minutes the deadlock was broken. With a mix up in defence, a Stanwell striker was left one-on-one with the

keeper. He hit the post and the ball came back out, but with the Cowbridge defence failing to react quickly enough, a supporting striker sprinted into the box for an easy tap in.

Cowbridge brought James Revers and Harrison Stevens on, and Stanwell started to look a little tired.

David, Joe, Luke Jefferies, and Sean Davies began to take advantage of this with some superb balls over the back four and within 10 minutes the boys were level.

Harrison Stevens had a one-on-one with the visiting keeper, and coolly lobbed him with his left foot from 18 yards.

There were only five minutes left in the game and everything rested on a knife edge.

The score could then have been 3-1 to Stanwell if it wasn't for an excellent save from Charlie Martin and a well-timed sliding tackle from Luke Tidely.

The ball then went up the other end of the field, and Harrison was set free again. With a tight angle to shoot from, Harrison hit a curved shot up and over the goalkeeper, the ball nestling in the bottom left-hand corner.

For the last three minutes, the Cowbridge boys dug in and did not let Stanwell get anywhere near the goal. The final whistle blew and they had won.

Well done boys!
Players of the match: Harrison Stevens, Ben John and Jay Munn.

SD

Netball teams perform well

JANUARY 10 saw the first game of 2012 for both the year-9 and 10 team, who played a strong Bro Morgannwg.

The year-10s made an excellent start to their match, pulling away with a five-goal lead with some good shooting from Jo Wilkins and Lydia Hitchings, but Bro Morgannwg fought back to draw level at half time.

Despite some excellent defending from Olivia Brown, Cowbridge lost the match 13-15.

The year-9s started 2012 with a 13-1 win. A combination of quick passing, good dodging and accurate shooting meant they won this match comfortably.

Some good interceptions in the second half by Caitlin Jones and some good teamwork

between Kim Jerwood and Megan McNamee meant they retained the lead.

Player of the match: Year-9 - Megan McNamee, Year 10 - Annabel Curle.

THE year-8 A and B teams travelled to Bro Morgannwg on January 16.

The A team played first and after an unsteady opening, they settled and put some good passing moves together to lead 7-2 at half-time.

In the second half they gave a more dominant performance. They made some important interceptions and converted some excellent shots to win 14-4.

The B team started strongly and made a good impact on the game. They worked well as a team, so the ball moved nicely through the court. Some accurate shooting in the first half left the B team with a 4-0 lead at half-time. They took the same forceful approach to the second half and finished with a score of 5-2.

Player of the match: A team - May Bell, B team - Annie Lloyd.

A SLIGHTLY depleted year-10 and 11 side travelled to Whitchurch on January 17 for the first round of the Ann Smart tournament.

They had to win the group stage in order to qualify for the second round, and the first opponents were a strong Bishop of Llandaff team.

It was a really competitive game, with both teams demonstrating a high level of skill.

Cowbridge were always one goal in front, but in the last couple of minutes, they managed to intercept some of their opponents' passes and notch extra scores and win the game 10-7.

The final game was against Whitchurch, and if they won they would be through to the next round.

Cowbridge started slowly and lacked their normal quick and aggressive style of play. At half-time the score was 3-3.

A refreshed and more assertive team came out ready for the second half and played with control and dominance. Great defence meant Cowbridge did not concede a goal and excellent shooting won them the game 12-3. The next round will take place today (January 26).

Player of the match: game one; Caitlin Allin, game two; Jo Wilkins.

LL



Josh Peterson and his fellow medallists at the Welsh regional cross-country championships in Builth Wells.

Hockey girls go close

COWBRIDGE hosted the year-9 preliminary hockey tournament, playing Llantwit and Llanishen.

In the first game, Cowbridge played Llantwit and won 5-0. Evie Williams was nominated player of the match.

Cowbridge then played Llanishen. In the first half there were no goals scored. At the start of the second half Rosa Hartman scored a goal for Cowbridge, then Llanishen scored off a short corner.

The game finished 1-1. Llanishen will go into the county finals after they scored one more goal than Llantwit.

The team played well throughout the two matches. Well done girls!

Player of the match: Laurie Thomas.

THE year-7 girls faced Bro Morgannwg, playing two seven-a-side matches.

In the first match, Bro Morgannwg won 5-3 with Selina Radcliffe scoring all the goals and being player of the match. In the second, Cowbridge won 3-0 with Sophie Oddy being player of the match.

LL/LJ

Cross-country success

THE McCain UK Cardiff Cross Country Challenge was held at Blackweir Fields on January 15.

Many Cowbridge girls competed for the Cardiff and Vale county team against other Welsh counties and Gloucestershire.

In the year-7 and under-13s races, Seren Allin ran well to finish fourth overall.

From Cowbridge, Selina Radcliffe came 60th, Lowri Morgan 63rd, Sanant Emyr 73rd and Sophie Oddy 82nd out of 105 finishers.

In the under-15s race, Nadine James came 51st, Rebecca Thomas 52nd, Genevieve Kirk 56th, Cerys Bradshaw 57th, Ela Emyr 62nd,

Alice Tudor 85th; unfortunately, Brooke Langton Cryer struggled over the line with back spasms in 109th place.

In the under-17s race, Jessica Jaques had a great run, coming in as the first finisher for the Cardiff and Vale team, coming in 12th overall - an excellent race!

Miriam Bennett also ran, coming 53rd out of 69 racing. The Cardiff and Vale team were positioned first in the team rankings.

In the under-20s girls race, Fiona Bray ran well to finish 13th overall and the second-placed Cardiff athlete. Well done to all the girls selected.

RECENTLY, year-8

pupil Josh Peterson took part in the Welsh regional cross country championships in Builth Wells.

Having run extremely well for his school during the Boys' Cross Country League fixtures and within the South Wales Championships, Josh was selected to be part of the eight-man squad.

He came in 17th out of a field of around 50 athletes. This was a tremendous effort on a challenging course with its muddy and hilly terrain.

The South Wales team finished first, and received a gold medal.

LJ/SD

Under-11s in fine form

SUNDAY saw a confident and unbeaten CRICC under-11s take on Cowbridge under-11s, who are also having a tremendous season.

The match lived up to expectations, with many of the boys knowing each other's strengths from playing in the same Vale team on a Saturday. CRICC took the game to Cowbridge, fighting hard straight from the whistle, and they managed to pin Cowbridge deep into their own half for the first five minutes of the game.

It was only some great defence from Cowbridge that kept CRICC from crossing the line. However, against the run of play, it was the Cowbridge team who crossed the line first, with a magnificent interception and sprint by the deceptively quick Luke Martin.

This opening try seemed to help the Cowbridge team click into gear. Evan Thomas scored the second try down the left wing, following a flowing backs move after a hard fought forwards encounter.

Both teams were evenly matched and both played some good rugby.

The scoreline did not change for the rest of the first half until the very

last minute when a clinical set move in the Cowbridge backs gave Ed Lewis a well worked try.

At the start of the second half, Cowbridge put the game beyond doubt by scoring two quick tries.

Ruben Williams and then Ben Jones both went over, powering through the CRICC defence with strong runs straight from the kick offs.

CRICC kept fighting and their brilliant defensive effort was rewarded with a well-deserved try of their own.

The scoreline did not reflect what had been a very well balanced game. However, in the last few minutes it was Cowbridge's try machine, Barny Langton-Cryer, who had the final say with a trademark 40 metre run, outpacing the CRICC back line.

The final score was an excellent and well deserved 30-5 victory for Cowbridge under-11s.

Next week the under 11s host two teams at home, Llantwit Fardre and a touring team all the way from Surrey, Old Caterhamians RFC, who are travelling down just to play our boys; all support welcome.

GJ

The Cowbridge under-13s are just too classy

COWBRIDGE under-13s returned to winning ways with a comprehensive win over their English visitors.

Although out played by the heavier Boswells pack, the home side's backs were far too quick and strong for their opponents.

They looked dangerous each time they gained possession, creating panic in the Boswell defence at every opportunity. Cowbridge scored seven tries through centre Joe Nott and flanker Dan Bunney (two each) and outside half Cai Evans, centre Rhys Beynon and scrum half Osian John scored one apiece. Four of the seven tries were converted by Cai Evans.

In the forwards, prop Tom Edwards, Matthew Keating and Tomos Evans-Williams snuffed out any danger from the Boswell forwards with some brave tackling. Michael Thomas, Harrison Stevens and Sean Davies contributed to the tries with good runs out of defence, and

the whole team should be congratulated for a fine performance.

Final score: Cowbridge 43, Boswells School, Exset 0.

Second half slip up

THE first half against Bridgend Sports was a hard-fought contest between two equally-matched sides.

The visitors scored two quick tries halfway through the first period, but Cowbridge stormed back with two tries from Cai Evans and Joe Nott, one converted by Cai Evans.

Bridgend led by 14-12 at half time.

The second half was a great disappointment for the home team, who allowed Sports to dominate most of the period, scoring three further tries, all converted. Good performances from Otto Guwy, Owain Jenkins and Sam John did not make up for a rare defeat at the hands of the visitors.

Final score: Cowbridge 12, Bridgend Sports 33.

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Well done to the two Matthews as they achieve success!



ABOVE: The Welsh schools' team in Glasgow.

FOR two of the brightest young athletes in the Vale, December brought a wonderful end to 2011, with some hugely encouraging performances - both are pupils at Barry Comprehensive School and members of Barry & Vale Harriers.

The first weekend in the month saw year 11 Matthew Collins representing Welsh Schools at his fifth international in the calendar year, and, for the second time, he had to make the long journey north to Glasgow to compete in the SIAB Schools' Indoor Combined Events in Glasgow, at Kelvin Hall.

This fixture has been held at that venue, in early December, for more than fifteen years, but the normal pattern was disrupted in 2010 by the arctic conditions. Matthew was selected as a member of the four boy Welsh Schools under-16 (years 9 and 10) squad, and retained his place when the event was rescheduled for early February.

It was a hugely talented Welsh quartet, one which shrugged off the

disappointment of the disqualification of potential winner David Omeregic in the 200 metres to go on to provide the individual winner, Aled Price, and claim the team gold medal.

For the December 2011 fixture, Matthew moved up to the under-18 (years 11 and 12) squad, in which he was joined by two of his team-mates from February - David Omeregic and Aled Price.

It was year 11 Omeregic who got proceedings off to a wonderful start, flying over the 60 metres hurdles cleanly to clock 8.09 seconds.

Matthew made a steady start, recording 9.07 seconds (730 pts) in the hurdles followed by a best put of 10.45 metres in the shot (513). For someone who started as an 800 metre runner, Matthew has made excellent progress in the sprints in a very short period of time.

His 23.20 seconds (766) clocking was the second fastest under-18 time of the day. As a potential 6 metres-plus long jumper and a sub 2:10 800 metres runner, he will have been disappointed with his 5.77 metres best jump (537)

and 2:14.17 (536).

However, he was delighted with his five event total of 3082 points, a new personal best, though he was amazed to find himself in twelfth place, with thirteen athletes recording scores in excess of 3000 points.

Of his team mates, David Omeregic recorded 3550 points, losing out on first place by a mere nine points, while Aled Price claimed third spot with a score of 3372.

The total for the three scorers in the Welsh team was 10,004, not enough to beat the England trio (10,232) but good enough for the team silver medal - and the Welsh trio will be keen to return next year to battle again for individual and team honours.

On the second week in December, it was the turn of year 12 Matthew Edwards to show how much he has improved in 2011. Having already showed good form representing Barry & Vale Harriers in the Gwent League fixtures this winter, he excelled himself at the Welsh Inter Regional championships.

Wearing the maroon and white vertical stripes of south Wales, Matthew took the initiative from the starting gun in the under-17 men's race (for pupils in years 11 and 12), heading a strong and experienced field and pulling away to

claim his first ever national title, with the added bonus of leading the South Wales eight to team success.

But that was not the end of the story! On the third weekend in December, Matthew represented Welsh Athletics in the under-17 race at the prestigious Lottocross fixture in Brussels. Against strong British opposition, he finished third and was the only Welsh athlete to gain a medal.

This was also his fifth outing in the red vest in 2011. Back in February, he finished third and led the under-17 mens team to bronze at the Celtic Cross international in Dublin. In March, he was back in Ireland, at Antrim, representing Welsh Schools in the under-17 race at the Aviva SIAB Schools' international.

In the summer, he twice represented Welsh Schools in the under-17 1500 metres steeplechase - at the Aviva SIAB Schools' international at Cardiff on July 16 and the Sainsbury's UK School Games at Sheffield in September, taking an individual bronze in a sub 4 minutes 30 seconds clocking in that race.

After such an excellent end to last year, it will be hugely interesting to see how the duo fare in 2012!

PETE MORRIS



Cowbridge Comprehensive School's boys are the Vale of Glamorgan's badminton champions.

Cowbridge and Stanwell taste victory in school badminton tournament

TEENAGERS in the Vale served up a top school badminton tournament as they took their chance to compete in another Olympic sport thanks to the 5x60 scheme.

Badminton is one of the many sports that are provided at lunchtimes and after school as part of the 5x60 scheme, a Sport Wales initiative that is run locally by the Vale Council's sports and play development team. It encourages pupils to exercise for at least 60 minutes, five times a week (5x60).

More than 40 boys and girls from years 7 and 8 did just that by taking to the courts at Penarth Leisure Centre for the badminton competition after many of them had only recently taken up the sport.

Six local secondary schools were represented in the boys' tournament, with each school team

being made up of four players who went on to play a mixture of singles and doubles matches to decide the title.

Following an initial group stage and semi-finals, Cowbridge Comprehensive School emerged victorious over St Cyres School in a closely contested final.

In the girls' tournament, four schools faced each other in a round robin format, with Stanwell School securing the winners' trophy after beating Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

Both winners will now go through to face other schools from across South Wales in the regional 5x60 badminton competition at Penarth Leisure Centre on February 2.

For further details about scheme, go online at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/5x60.



The girls from Stanwell School took top spot in the girls' competition.

Barry Bees in great form

BARRY Bees were in great form against Cardiff team CIACS.

They started the game full of energy and scored an early try through Cole Saunders.

The Bees were dominating all aspects of the game, and the rampaging Cian Anderson scored a second try.

Despite overwhelming Barry pressure CIACS showed great determination and scored their first try to make it 2-1.

This invoked an immediate response from the Bees and the flying Stephen Williams finished an excellent move with a try in the corner.

This was followed by another great try from Cole. Jacob Pereria finished the first half in style with a final try making it 5-1.

The second half followed the same pattern and Cole again smashed his way through the home defence for a try.

This was quickly followed by a try from the flying James Chapman, who skipped his way through the tacklers.

The Bees were now in full stride and Cole again broke through to increase the score to 8-1.

Spencer Williams scored another after a good move from the backs.

The Bees rounded the game off with a final flourish with another try from the unstoppable Cole, pushing the final score to 10-2.

The best tackler award went to Charlie Bale for his excellent tackle rate, and the man of the match went to Cole Saunders for his scintillating running.

Team: Isaac McBride,

Jacob Pereria, Rhys Fahiya, Harrison Kelly, Lloyd, Ethan Watkins, Cian Anderson, Spencer Morgan Taylor, Charlie Williams, James Bale, Cole Saunders, Chapman.

Stephen Williams, Seb

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MOTORING WITH TIM SAUNDERS

Volvo S60: Sporty Swedish hybrid provides real style

EFFICIENT luxury – two words that rarely go together. Admittedly, the Lexus hybrid is meant to be the solution but in my opinion it isn't because it'll only cover around 300 miles a tank under normal driving conditions.

But the Volvo S60 just might successfully marry these two ideals. The stylish and supremely comfortable 1.6-litre drive version will return around 65mpg, and produces just 114g/km of carbon dioxide – less than most hatchbacks.

However, the overall package results in a marriage of compromise – but then aren't they all?

You see, while the S60 looks sporty thanks to the fact that it sits low to the ground, the eco-friendly engine doesn't pack the expected powerful punch. Don't get me wrong, it's



The Volvo S60.

not bad, but the gears have to be worked hard to get the best results.

The clunky six-speed gearbox could be smoother, too. But its engine stop/start is one of the most effective I have come across,

switching off almost every time the vehicle stops, as it should do.

You'd be surprised, though, how temperamental these systems can be: for instance the one on the Toyota Prius only cuts in if you're gentle with it. The Swede is far less picky.

When the S60 was

launched in 2000 there was no denying that it was cumbersome, in common with many executive saloons of that era.

The second generation model, which was introduced two years ago, has a more curvaceous design making it feel a more compact vehicle.

There are hints of both Audi and Mercedes about the exterior particularly around the front. When locked, the wing mirrors automatically fold up, which is a useful feature.

Inside, the well-styled and curved dashboard favours the driver while all features are easy to operate. Gone is the traditional handbrake, more's the pity –

instead there's a small switch, which takes a little getting used to. There's a bit of road noise but generally it's quiet and refined

although the engine can be vocal under pressure. Sitting in the leather upholstered seats is a joy that leaves driver and passengers relaxed at the end of a long journey. The doors shut with a satisfying thud as they always have done on Volvos, and inside there's a plethora of luxury features including heated front seats, all-round electric windows and air conditioning. Of course it's ultra-safe, too.

At night the illuminated instrument panel reflects on the windscreen and although this

is out of the driver's eye-line it can be irritating. A driver's footrest would be appreciated. The boot is a reasonable size.

Parkers, the car experts, write: "Volvo's last S60 came close, but not close enough to unseating, or even unsettling the Germans' dominance of the small exec class. This time could be very different. The new small S60 has style, an innovative well-made interior, pioneering pedestrian-in-the-road sensing safety equipment and a new range of five-cylinder engines."

"Even braver, the Swedish firm claims its S60 is the sportiest car it has ever made."

The new S60 should appeal to environmentally conscious execs seeking to make a good impression. In my opinion it's far more pleasing than a hybrid as it will cover over 700 miles on a tank.

Vehicle tested: S60 Drive Lux Start/Stop £27,695/

Economy: 65mpg.

Engine: 1.6-litre diesel.

0-60mph: 10.6secs.

Top speed: 121mph.

Power: 113bhp.

Drive-in a success for new captain

ON Thursday, January 19, the 'drive-in' of the new ladies' captain of Cottrell Park, Judy James, who did an excellent drive, took place.

She was well supported by all the ladies as she drove off on the driving range, due to the very wet conditions on the course.

The prize for the marker nearest to where the ball landed was won by Helen Ruttley.

Sixty eight ladies attended the lunch which followed the drive in.

Following lunch brooches and presents were exchanged and speeches given by Jenny McGlyne, immediate past captain, and Judy James.

Jenny received a teak garden table from the Ladies of Cottrell, and continuing the garden theme she was given a purple wheelbarrow from Judy.

She wished Judy every success for the coming year and presented her with a lovely bouquet of flowers.



ABOVE: New captain Judy on the driving range, and BELOW: Judy James and Jenny McGlyne.



GURTACRUE SCORES

GURTACRUE, a seven-year-old chestnut gelding, owned by William and Angela Rucker, and trained by Evan Williams at Llancarfan, landed the Bathwick Midsomer Norton Novices Limited Handicap Chase at Wincanton last Saturday.

Gurtacrue, who made £95,000 at the Doncaster Sales last year after winning two point-to-points and a bumper in Ireland, won by a neck from the Nicky Henderson trained Minella Stars who shared

ed Gurtacrue, ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney.

The Ruckers who are based in Worcestershire are great point-to-point supporters and are the owners of stable star State Of Play who has been placed in several Aintree Grand Nationals for Williams.

At Ludlow last Thursday, Williams was successful in the bumper (National Hunt flat race) with Hold Court, who under Adam Wedge, came home 15 lengths ahead of the 5-4 favourite Lucky Hopeful.

BRIAN LEE

Under-14s' clinch a double with nine-goal blitz

ANOTHER week of rain brought many postponements with only the Llantwit Major under-13A and under-14 teams playing.

The under-14 side entertained Sully Sports A and easily completed the double winning 9-0.

Llantwit had total control and the goals were shared between Gabe Oram (2), Ashford Thomas (2), Richard Stephens (2) and a goal each from Will Perkins, Matt Cassidy and Kyle Henderson.

Meanwhile, the under-13A side entertained Dinas Powys B and came unstuck, losing 3-1.

Llantwit missed a host of chances and the visitors found them wanting in defence and led 3-0 with ten minutes left.

Cai Evans pulled a goal back but it was only a consolation, as Dinas deserved their win.

GWYN JOHN

THE HUSKIES ARE GROWING UP FAST!



THE junior section of Barry Huskies Basketball Club were up bright and early on Sunday, January 8, when they completed a 5K run around Cosmeston to raise funds for the club.

A club spokesman said: "Congratulations to all the Huskies on completing the 5K in perfect conditions, and in particular Joe Frost for coming first and personally raising more than £115."

While the adult section has been running for more than 50 years, the newly founded youth program was set up in March 2011 by coaches and senior players Ian Gibbons and Aid Whitlow.

The Huskies train every Friday between 6pm and 8pm, and on Sundays (10am-1pm) at

Holm View Leisure Centre in Barry.

The club is for boys and girls aged between 12-16 years and, along with training, they play in regular matches and tournaments. Several players (boys and girls) have been selected into the Welsh Basketball Squads at under-14 and under-16 level.

The junior club now boasts more than 18 players from Barry, Llantwit and Penarth but new members are always welcome.

The spokesman added: "For more information, contact Aidy (07999 331160), or Ian (07967 562392), the facebook page Barry Huskies Basketball Club or go to www.barryhuskies.net."

"Also, if there are any local businesses or individuals interested in sponsoring the club, we

would love to hear from you."

Before Christmas, the Huskies ended with a Christmas party for the players, coaches and parents at the Glenbrook Pub in Barry.

Many thanks to the Glenbrook for showing their support to the youngsters – a great evening was had by all.

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GEM sport

ICE COLD IN GDANSK, BUT WALES ARE AIMING TO TURN UP THE HEAT

WITH the 35-strong Wales rugby squad now being given the cold treatment in their Gdansk training camp this week, interest in the 2012 RBS Six Nations is starting to warm up, as the eagerly-awaited opening clash against the still-smarting Irish draws near.

For many of the players, the rigours of the cryotherapy chamber in a Polish boot camp will not be a shock to the system, as head coach Warren Gatland has taken the bulk of the players who performed to rave reviews in the Rugby World Cup Down under.

Thus his squad has a familiar feel and includes only four new faces who were not part of his initial 45-man RWC training squad, or the international against Australia at the Millennium Stadium in December.

Ospreys starlets Ashley Beck and Rhys Webb, Blues' teenage wing

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

Harry Robinson, and Saracens prop Rhys Gill, who won his only cap in the 2010 Six Nations – as a replacement against Ireland – are the only squad members who had not figured previously in the selectors' plans.

The first three, along with promising Scarlets duo, prop Rhodri Jones and Liam Williams – who both featured in the training squad against the Wallabies – and their regional team mate lock Lou Reed, are the only uncapped players selected.

Gatland will prune the squad down after it returns home from intense seven-day training at the Gdansk camp, which uses the infamous cryotherapy chambers to improve players' recovery and allow them to cram in extra training sessions.

Three players – Gill, Exeter Chiefs' Craig Mitchell and Sale Sharks' back rower Andy Powell –

joined the squad from English clubs – along with the France-based trio James Hook, Mike Phillips and Lee Byrne, for three days only – the maximum stipulated by IRB regulations.

Gatland has also controversially included the enigmatic Gavin Henson and clearly believes that despite a mounting injury list, he is now assembling a potent mix of youth, talent and experience, under the leadership of Sam Warburton, to mount a credible Welsh challenge in the upcoming Six Nations.

It all kicks off next month, with Ireland away and Scotland at home and Gatland summed up: "We have had to strike a balance with this squad."

"The majority are those players who excelled for Wales during the Rugby World Cup, but we are also taking the opportunity to look at one or two youngsters, before probably cutting our numbers even

further before the start of the tournament.

"We have kept a couple of older heads and we have injuries, with Alun Wyn Jones, Josh Turnbull, Rob McCusker and Luke Charteris all unavailable to us (with further injury scares at the weekend) but the emphasis on development and planning for the future is there for everyone to see.

"These are exciting times for Welsh rugby, we showed a huge amount of potential at the Rugby World Cup in New Zealand and we will be working as hard as is humanly possible to ensure that we reach our potential in this year's Six Nations championship."

The first formidable obstacle, though, is provided by the men in green, who were left stunned to the core by one of the most stunning displays of high-intensity, committed rugby ever staged by a Welsh side, as Gatland's young troops

tore Ireland's Old Guard apart in the quarter final of RWC 2011.

The Irish will be determined to avenge that humiliating defeat, adding more than usual spice to this age-old rivalry between two close Celtic cousins.

They will be going into the tournament with their hopes high, after hugely-impressive performances by their top regions in Europe.

In contrast, the four Welsh regions have again struggled to make an impact – the Ospreys' campaign, in particular, ending in a 36-5 humiliation at the hands of Biarritz last weekend.

Even so, outwardly at least, Warren Gatland is expressing total confidence that his World Cup warhorses, and the younger guns now coming through, will be a potent mix which will set the tournament alight.

After last year's heroics in New Zealand, who would dare bet against him being right again?

Barry RFC are not on song at Bridgend Sports

Without several of its regular players, Barry travelled to Bridgend last Saturday on a blustery autumn afternoon.

It was clear from the start that the home side had dangerous runners in the three-quarter line. They were given full rein by some woefully poor tackling from the Barry backs.

With Bridgend attacking at every opportunity, it was against the run of play that the visitors went ahead through a Ryan penalty. Barry settled to their task and began to dominate the lineouts through aggressive work by the trio of King, Degaura and McTavish. Mainly due to this dominance they were able to stretch their lead with another Ryan penalty on the half hour mark.

The home side earned the referee's wrath with several high tackles and by questioning his decisions. This allowed Barry to set up some useful field positions, but the ensuing penalties were just out of range of the goal kicker.

Perhaps kicking into the corner may have

BRIDGEND SPORTS RFC 7 BARRY RFC 6

been a useful variation in play? The half time whistle, however, saw Barry maintaining their useful six points' advantage.

Bridgend Sports started the second session with more determination than they had shown in the first. Their forwards set a lively pace with the visiting defence being given a torrid time, but the visiting defenders appeared to be up to the task.

However, they made much harder work for themselves by trying to run the ball from deep in their own half. The conundrum was not only employing this tactic: if the ball is to be run out of defence, then why not pass it quickly to the wings who should have space and pace to gain ground?

With ten minutes or so of normal time left it still appeared that Barry would steal a win. However, an ill-directed clearance kick did not find touch and Barry paid the price.

An experienced Bridgend centre latched onto the loose ball, flick-

ing it inside to send his full back flying fifty metres down the touch-line to score a try half way out.

The same player made no mistake with the conversion to give the home side a single point advantage. To their great credit the Barry side refused to accept this reverse without a fight and put in a grandstand finish to try to grab the elusive points.

Disappointingly, there

was insufficient time left for them to do so.

Barry: Ryan, Adams, Busitil, A.Evans, Provis, Hardy, Gallivan, Bowditch, O'Sullivan, Hollister, McTavish, Degaura, King, Parker, H.Jones©. Subs: Hoskins, L.Jones, Chukas, A.Evans.

Barry play in the next round of the SWALEC Bowl next Saturday. They travel to Blackweir, Cardiff to face St.Josephs with kick-off at 2.30pm.

CO

Goalless draw for Dinas Powys FC

DESPITE the scoreline and a very heavy pitch, this was an entertaining game with Dinas having the best of the chances to score throughout.

The visitors settled into their game quicker and had a half chance when Ashley Richards headed over the bar from a corner just three minutes into the game.

Dinas found their rhythm and began to create chances. A good move was started by Gareth Tedstone, he found Matt Trotman, who was tackled but the ball fell to Joe Hinds and he shot just wide.

Tedstone was then

DINAS POWYS 0 GARDEN VILLAGE 0

played in and his pace took him through for a one on one with the visitors' keeper Mark Snell, who parried the first attempt and dived on the ball to cut out Tedstone's second chance.

From a Steve Provis long throw-in, Trotman, with his back to goal, attempted a bicycle kick which was just wide of the upright.

The game was end to end and Garden Village had a chance when Rhys Whitelock took a free-kick into the six-yard box, where a scramble ensued before Dinas keeper Damien Lack managed to

smother the ball to cut out the danger.

Dinas then had probably their best chance of the game when Liam Jeremy shook off several challenges down the left flank and put in a perfect cross to Joe Hinds, whose header cannoned off the cross-bar with the keeper beaten and was cleared.

Further excellent link-up play involving Jeremy, Trotman, Tedstone and Hinds ended with a goalmouth scramble in the visitors' six yard box but their defence eventually managed to clear the danger.

As the interval approached Garden Village had a good spell of pressure. A cross from the right found its way to Whitelock in space but he got underneath his shot which sailed over the bar. Dinas keeper Lack was then called into action having to punch clear a dangerous looking corner.

The hosts had the last word of the half however with another excellent run and shot from Jeremy but his attempt was wide and he probably should have squared the ball to Hinds or Tedstone.

The pitch was a real glue-pot by the time the

second half started but both teams must be congratulated for some excellent passing in the conditions.

Dinas began to press again with Trotman, having an excellent game, crossing for midfielder Adam Raymond to head home but the muddy ball skidded off his head and went well wide.

It was Dinas calling the shots now and Tedstone played a pass out to Jeremy on the left, he cut inside the full back to shoot with his weaker right foot and the ball sailed over the bar.

Both sides began to introduce their substitutes in the tiring conditions, Robbie Fowler replacing Tedstone, Jordan Phillips for Hinds and player/manager Mark Dunford having a run-out, replacing Trotman.

The visitors had a couple of half chances when Lack parried a shot from substitute Liam Samuel, he followed it up with another effort which was off target and as time ran out the home side should really have taken the points with the chances they created.

This Saturday, weather and pitch permitting, Dinas entertain the league leaders Monmouth Town with a 2pm kick off.

PK

The Barry Atoms endure a rough ride from Llantwit

ON a very windy Barry pitch, Barry Atoms under-9s faced Llantwit Major under-9s and both sides played their hearts out with some fine flowing rugby.

Barry looked like they were in for a rough ride, but they rode the initial barrage and scored first with a fine try by E. Galsworthy.

Llantwit soon struck back and the half finished 1-1.

Llantwit came out with two unanswered tries, and though Barry struck back through E. Galsworthy and J. Couch, unfortunately it was not enough, as Llantwit struck again and saw out the game 4 tries to 3.

SECOND GAME

Llantwit threw everything at Barry and got off to a two try lead.

Back came Barry with tries by D.Wall and E.Galsworthy, with further tries by Llantwit and another for Barry by D. Griffiths seeing the half out.

The second half was more of the same, to and fro with some outstanding defence and fine passing; unfortunately Barry were found wanting and a further three tries to Llantwit and tries by J. Couch(2) and E.Galsworthy saw out this game with Barry going down 7 to 6.

Well done to Pete Griffiths and Lee Galsworthy on your sterling reffing and coaching.
Squad: T.Pugh, M. Boffy, J.Jones, J. Couch, R.Rendell, J.Parry, C.Denbury, O.Smith, E.Galsworthy, Z.Fifield, D.Griffiths, F. Samad, I.Escott, J.Williams, D.Wall

DD